Laid-off workers: We're also essential. PAGE 2
Businesses also suffering from Yutu. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

About 2,000 line up early Sunday morning for the Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program at the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito.
ERWIN ENCINARES

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'Plenty of DNAP aid to go around'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» Over 2,200 numbers were assigned

There is more than enough money for Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program checks to go around for those who qualify for assistance.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter gave this assurance, adding that while Sunday may be the only day residents are available for lining up, setting up camp outside of the Nutritional Assistance Program office in As Lito was totally unnecessary.

"…A lot of them expressed that

See PLENTY on Page 4

'We waited overnight for DNAP'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu caused those who previously got by without government assistance to camp out of the Nutritional Assistance Program office in As Lito for aid.

It was learned that several residents who were in line for their Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program benefits, stayed as early as 7pm the

See WAITED on Page 4

'Wrong addresses' stymie FEMA checks

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Hundreds of CNMI residents who have been expecting financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have not received their checks due to incorrect addresses.

Following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, hundreds of CNMI residents applied for assistance with FEMA.

In light of the recent disaster, FEMA provided immediate financial assistance to all eligible appli-

See WRONG on Page 4

HK Express resumes flights to NMI

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing staff greet and give shell leis to the passengers of Hong Kong Express during their arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday afternoon. Hong Kong Express was the first commercial airline to make international flight to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last month shut down the airport.
MVA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» MVA staff greets, gives visitors leis
» More international flights coming this week

Hong Kong Express arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday at about 2:35pm with full capacity of 180 passengers from Hong Kong.

It was the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last Oct. 24 and 25, which shut down the Saipan airport.

Carrying a welcome banner, four Marianas Vis-

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Saipan joined the Black Friday frenzy last Friday—a day after Thanksgiving.
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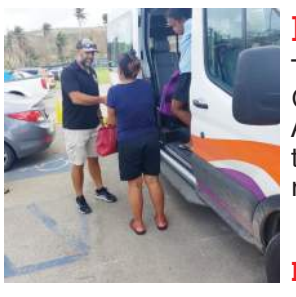

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The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority continues to transport displaced residents.
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Protesters march through an Alabama shopping mall where police killed a black man.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Laid off workers: We're also essential

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The former casino workers who've been let go hope that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC would also consider their contribution to its success and treat them as essentials.

Almost 160 were recently let go, most of whom were working as dealers at the casino. More than 50 of the workers staged a protest rally last Friday in front of the still-to-be-finished Imperial Pacific Resort, where IPI interim chair Mark Brown agreed to meet them. The meeting was held last Saturday at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"We, the CW [workers], are privileged enough to be part of this billion-dollar investment and to have it considered our main source of income for our families. [We're] able to live on an island [that] we have considered our home away from home," the workers said in a statement.

They said their skills contributed to the financial success of the casino investor on Saipan. "We also understand that we, the Asian CW casino staff, were hired by IPR to make use of our professionalism and experience in the Asian gaming floor that proved to be effective."

JON PEREZ

Some of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC casino workers that were laid off stage a protest outside the still-to-be finished Imperial Pacific Resort last Friday in Garapan.

"Therefore, without us, the casino would not have achieved the overwhelming profit that had put IPR and Saipan on the map, and at par with the other big casino resorts in the world."

They, however, felt that IPI management did not value them enough after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the islands. "Sadly, due to the recent events, we were simply set aside by the management because it had to."

"This is where we draw the line. Where we should be considered as essentials to the

See LAID on Page 4

IPI issues statement

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC has been plagued with challenges, but remains firm in its commitment to fulfill its obligations to the Commonwealth. This commitment is extended to helping make the Commonwealth a world-class tourist destination.

To ensure its continued success, Imperial Pacific has been restructuring company operations and initiating efficient business measures in every department. Although a decision had not been made, assessments were being performed to determine sufficient manpower needs and to identify methods to operate more efficiently and effectively. During this assessment, Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan and caused millions of dollars in damage to almost every resident and business on Saipan and Tinian.

The entire community is suffering and has had to make difficult decisions because of Yutu's natural disaster and its dire effects. Businesses throughout the CNMI are operating on limited hours or have completely closed down. Some have closed due to the damage to their businesses and others closed because it is too costly to run generators to maintain normal business hours. One of the most devastating effects to businesses has been the impact to tourism—no customers.

Given this current situation, many employees are faced with either reduced work hours or have been laid off. Imperial Pacific has not been spared from this. The company has determined that because of the lack of tourists on the island, it has no choice but to operate on limited hours with minimal staff. Because it is unclear when tourist arrivals will normalize and when the airport will be fully

See IPI on Page 4

Triple J joins Toys for Tots

In the spirit of the holidays and giving back, Triple J Enterprises has kick started the Toys for Tots program in the CNMI, in support of Saipan Young Professionals.

As of last Wednesday, Triple J Enterprises has posted Toys for Tots donation boxes at all Triple J companies on Saipan.

According to Triple J Enterprises human resource director Frank Ada, programs like Toys for Tots is important, especially following a major disaster like Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We need to give because there are people who really need it and this is going to target…children. …Yutu can come and do all this destruction but it's not going to take away our spirit…we have to let the kids know that there are programs like this that give specifically to children and what better way than through gifts on Christmas Day," said Ada. "We feel so blessed with everything going on with our business but part of our success is also sharing, more than ever now/"

Ada said that Triple J Enterprises is not new to the Toys for Tots program as they joined the Saipan Young Professionals during its first year of sponsoring the program, and it also frequently joins the program in Guam.

"…the Jones family is always about giving back to the community," he said.

Ada said the donation boxes will be spread out to all Triple J affiliates: Tony Roma's, Capriciosa, Bubba Gump, Truckload Store, Triple J Motors, Surf Club, and all other Triple J establishments.

The Toys for Tots program is led by the Chamber of Commerce's Saipan Young Professionals group.

The program aims to garner as many toys as possible that will be distributed to children across the CNMI. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Triple J Enterprises staff pose for a photo as they post their first Toys for Tots donation box at the Great Harvest bakery last Wednesday.

Businesses are also suffering from Yutu

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said they are collecting data to determine how many of their members also became victims of Super Typhoon Yutu that hit the islands of Saipan and Tinian last month. Local and federal agencies have also requested the data in order for them to provide better assistance to the business community.

SCC president Velma Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that they know a lot of their members were affected either physically or economically, but they still managed to help their employees. "We don't have actual data which is why we are conducting the survey."

"We do know many of our membership have been impacted with physical damage to their businesses and employees losing their homes. Some businesses are also assisting their employees during this time through shelters and other contributions," Palacios.

Some businesses did open a few days after Yutu, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency called part of every community's recovery efforts after every disaster. "Businesses are slowly trying to open up to serve the community even if it is limited hours."

"Again, I don't have data to support this. Some businesses have reduced hours to let their employees tend to their homes and families, while others had to reduce hours because the business itself is impacted."

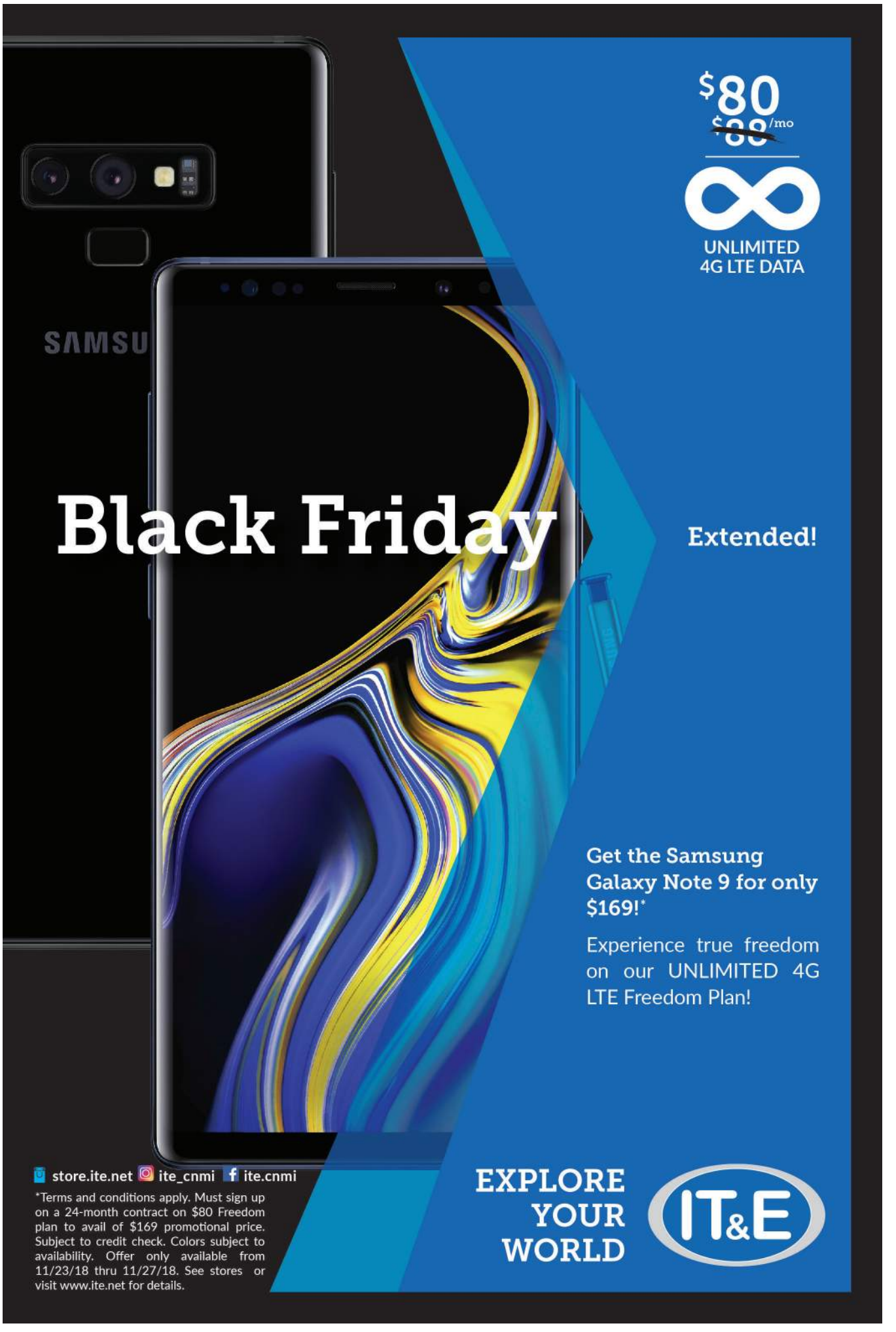
Generators also became an issue, with some businesses being able to continue with their operations unlike others.

"Some businesses on Saipan were prepared with generators from past experience with Typhoon Soudelor, which allowed them to continue operations if their physical structures were not impacted," said Palacios.

"Generators, though, need to be taken down for maintenance and there are businesses that are having generator issues."

She added that the CNMI Department of Labor, under Secretary Vicky Benavente, has also asked businesses and other employers of informing them of their plans, if they would either cut their hours of operations or lay off their workers.

"Businesses would have to inform Labor if they are letting employees go. There are also grants approved and pending approval to assist these employees," said Palacios.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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

IPI

From Page 2

operational, Imperial Pacific made a difficult decision to reduce its manpower. This decision has not been easy because the company realizes that many lives will be impacted.

In compliance with laws and regulations, the company has notified and consulted with the CNMI and U.S. departments of Labor and the Philippine Consulate General of plans to initiate employee layoffs. However, all employee contracts will be honored and reasonable accommodations will be made for employees departing the Commonwealth.

Mark A. Brown, chairman of Imperial Pacific, met with employees affected by the layoff to hear their concerns and to assure them that they are valued employees and hope that they return to Saipan, once the Imperial Pacific Resort is fully operational.

Imperial Pacific regrets that layoffs must commence, but it is necessary in order to ensure the company's survival until such time as our visitor population normalizes and we can sustain regular business operations. The company thanks the community but especially all of its employees for their patience and understanding. Imperial Pacific would like to reassure every affected employee that they will be the first to be contacted once the company is back in full operation. ***(PR)***

HK

From Page 1

itors Authority staff greeted the visitors and gave shell leis to the tourists as they stepped inside the airport's gate.

MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim, who was among those who greeted the visitors, said it's been a relief, knowing that tourists are coming back.

"We really need for the flights to come back as soon as possible. We knew it was a working process, knowing that we took a lot of damage from Typhoon Yutu, especially the airport," Kim said.

Kim said they are thankful to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for allowing them to greet the incoming tourists and for their hard work of opening and operating the airport as soon as possible.

Kim said more international flights will arrive this week. He said they will do airport greetings for each airline company.

Meko Fok and her husband, Martin Ip, said it's both their idea to come to Saipan after watching about the beautiful island from TV.

Fok and Ip, both 30 years old, said they're aware about Typhoon Yutu's destruction to the island last month, but they still proceeded with their travel.

Fok said they appreciate the warm welcome of the MVA staff who gave them shell leis.

"I love it here. I love Saipan," said Fok, who is an account executive in a company in China. The couple will stay on Saipan for five days.

Liu Yi, a salesperson in Hong Kong, said she was aware of Yutu's destruction, but still continued her five-day travel to the island to enjoy and relax.

Yi, 25, said their flight was also delayed for several hours due to Typhoon Man-Yi but that she's very excited to tour the island.

Yi learned about the "beautiful CNMI" upon reading about it in a newspaper.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said they are pleased to welcome Hong Kong Express back as the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Yutu effectively closed the Saipan airport on Oct. 24.

Concepcion said United Airlines has been operating between Saipan and Guam right after the storm but that's essentially considered a domestic flight between two U.S. jurisdictions.

He said MVA partners in Hong Kong and mainland China, and Korea as well, have been pushing hard behind the scenes to get the airlines to resume regular scheduled service to allow the tourism industry to resume normal operations.

"We are very pleased to see some positive results come to fruition," he said.

Concepcion said many businesses that have traditionally relied on tourists to survive have suffered tremendous harm from the lack of tourists arriving into the CNMI.

"This has a domino effect on everything else in our islands as [fewer] tourists mean less revenue for businesses, which means less taxes paid to the CNMI government, which means less resources for our government to spend on our needs," he said.

Concepcion said it's going to be a huge challenge to get things back to normal in the industry, but they are seeing great things happen.

"We are very positive that things will only get better and continue to improve from here," he said.

Century Tours operations manager Yumei Bao welcomed 65 customers out of the 180 passengers at the airport.

Bao said their bus was waiting at the airport for the tourists that would bring them straight for sightseeing because the flight was delayed for 12 hours due to the typhoon.

"We feel very happy to welcome the customers because it's already one month that we don't have any customer," Bao said.

LAID

From Page 2

company. Therefore, it is only fitting for the company to acknowledge our sacrifices and importance by giving us proper compensations so that we can have something to bring with us home."

"Especially that Christmas is only a month away and to have something in our pockets to start the next year. Again, we plead to you [IPI management] of our rights to have this well-deserved severance pay and not just seven days," the statement said.

IPI, in the notice of layoff they gave the workers, stated that the company would shoulder their plane tickets and they would receive seven days of payment aside from any accrued paid time off or PTO.

Sentiments

Joy Trinos said she was informed by IPI's human resources department that she was laid off on Nov. 21, but details of their ticket and flight departure have yet to be arranged. "All they said was that IPI wants all the workers to leave the island on Nov. 29."

"We don't know yet what airline and other details of our flight back home. We also don't know if they would provide baggage allowances. If ever, they [HR representatives] said that we're allowed one baggage and we would shoulder the cost if we have an extra bag."

Bruce Lim, a pitch supervisor, said the laid off workers are only hoping to get paid. "We are just asking to get the payment we are hoping for. They called and I went on Nov. 19 where I submitted some documents. I signed my clearance but not the seven-day severance pay."

"Because I read somewhere that we're entitled to at least 60 days. They said that the recent typhoon is an issue. Then, they should have stopped the operations and totally shut down the casino. If they were affected by the typhoon, why did they open up the casino again?

Reymar Duran said that some of their co-workers were just getting their pay slips or had discrepancies in their salaries but were also informed that they are being laid off.

"Some didn't get paid properly. There were others that filed their PTO or sick leave since the company is downsizing, and they did not get paid. All of us that were laid off were not informed about our return tickets. All of those that resigned, who could no longer bear with our situation, were already given return tickets," said Duran.

PLENTY

From Page 1

Sunday is their only day that they can do this…But we have been trying to get the word out in social media that everybody who qualifies will get assistance. We are not going to run out of money," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

The DNAP budget is estimated to be over $8.5 million, according to a statement from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

DCCA stated in a previous article that they project the participation of 12,000 of the 14,000 households on Saipan and Tinian.

"It is unnecessary to wait [at the NAP office] overnight. Get there early, but not that early," he said.

According to Hunter, lines have been starting to form outside of the NAP office as early as 6pm last Saturday.

While the plan was to only issue 1,700 numbers, the staff on site decided it to be best to distribute numbers until the end of the allotted time for processing, from 8am to 6pm. As of 2:30pm yesterday, over 2,200 numbers have already been assigned, Hunter said.

"They…decided to go ahead [with the numbers over 1,700] because there were so many people there," he said yesterday.

Hunter noted that, with over 2,200 people showing up in front of the As Lito NAP office, he would be pitching an idea to do an off-site DNAP number distribution, which would require the approval of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

He noted that the meeting with FEMA would be held after the number distributions.

WAITED

From Page 1

night before for assistance.

People of all walks of life were concentrated outside the NAP office in As Lito, including a young casino dealer trying to feed himself and his wife.

Lester, not his real name, is a casino dealer who is a U.S. citizen. However, with the uncertainties that surround the casino, Lester lined up for DNAP to secure his family.

"With the casino temporarily shut down, the uncertainty of future casino operations, and the rumors going around of additional people being laid off… that is the reason why I am here, to apply for DNAP," he said.

Lester told *Saipan Tribune* that DNAP is an alternate source of food, especially now that he has no steady income from the casino.

"We were camping in front of the NAP office since 7pm Saturday," Lester said. He was No. 12 in line, and was able to receive his DNAP benefits at around 10am, two hours after the NAP office opened its gates for registration.

"Around 6am we started having trouble," he said, that there were some issues with the lines.

Rachel, not her real name and a CW-1 worker, brought her family here in hopes of providing a better life for them. She and her husband camped out of the NAP office with her child for DNAP benefits.

"This assistance is very useful for the basic necessities of those who were greatly affected by Typhoon Yutu," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that her house was completely wiped out. She noted that even though the assistance was specifically for food, it was a great help.

"We lost our house," she said, adding that she was staying the night at a family friend's place.

"We still do not have the capacity to look for a new house because we have not gotten anything from other assistance distributions," she said, adding that her family lining up for DNAP benefits was her first taste of assistance since Yutu.

Gloria, also a CW-2 stay-at-home mother of two, noted that she and her family camped at 8pm Saturday night. She was with her husband, who brought a tarpaulin, some blankets, and a portable stove for coffee as they lined up for DNAP benefits.

"The assistance, even just for food, is a big help for our family," she said.

She noted that her family of four feared for their lives in the afternoon of Yutu's visit and evacuated to a shelter around 4pm. They reside in As Lito.

"This assistance is really helpful for a family such as ours. It helps with feeding our children, so everything is worth the wait," she said.

Gloria, also not her real name, painted a similar picture as she recalled her experience with the American Red Cross' financial distributions.

During their interviews, both Gloria and Rachel noted their gratitude toward the government, especially since their status prevents them from receiving the regular NAP assistance.

WRONG

From Page 1

cants worth $500.

Unfortunately, many did not receive the immediate assistance due to a mishap with addresses.

Unverified reports stated that the U.S. Postal Service in the CNMI has been returning FEMA checks because they were addressed to lot numbers and home mail delivery system is not used on Saipan or Tinian.

In a previous post from the Office of the Governor, residents were warned that P.O. boxes should not be used when applying for federal assistance because it would not be accepted. Instead, residents were encouraged to look up their lot number with the Department of Public Lands.

In an email from FEMA public information officer Paul Corah, he confirmed that checks were being sent back to the agency. "We ran into a small problem. Checks are being returned to FEMA," he said.

Paul said that FEMA has been working to mail the checks to P.O. boxes.

"We are sending the checks to the P.O. boxes the survivors gave FEMA. These P.O. boxes have to be up to date, with fees paid so survivors can get their money. We ask if any survivors are expecting a check that has not arrived to contact FEMA right away," he said.

The U.S. Postal Service has yet to comment on the situation.

According a woman who requested that she not be identified, she received an email about two weeks after applying for financial assistance that said she was eligible for $500. The email said that the assistance would cover immediate necessities following a disaster like clothing, food, and more.

After about a week of waiting for her check, she said she decided to call the FEMA hotline to follow up about her financial assistance and was told it might take up to two weeks for the check to arrive by mail.

Now, a month following Super Typhoon Yutu, she has yet to receive her check. She was also told at the Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to provide a P.O. box and her check would be re-mailed to her.

Not the usual Black Friday sale

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan joined the Black Friday frenzy last Friday—a day after Thanksgiving—as has become a tradition all over the United States, with people snapping up sales deals to get a head start on their Christmas shopping.

This time, though, many shoppers on Saipan were focused not on luxury items but to replenish belongings that they lost during Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to Liberty Department Store manager Frances Yumul, they weren't expecting many people to show up at the store last Friday.

"We know that half of the island was damaged, many homes were destroyed by the typhoon so I thought people don't have the spirit to go out and buy because many lost their houses and jobs. Because of that, we weren't really expecting many shoppers. It turns out that many people showed up," she said.

Yumul said that most shoppers bought items that they needed for their homes. "I noticed that most of our customers come for the household items, bathroom items, baby items such as clothing and toys."

Discounts at Liberty Department Store ranged from 15 percent to 55 percent.

"This year's Black Friday Sale is totally different from last year; last year was better. But we know what everyone has been through and one thing we did was to keep the prices the same as last year's. We don't want to raise the prices post-typhoon and we gave further discounts," she added

I Love Saipan was also taken aback by the turnout at their store. People started lining up at 8am, even though the store opens at 10am. "I wasn't expecting a good turnout because many in the community lost their homes and we were not sure if they wanted to shop after Typhoon Yutu. We didn't prepare by adding cashiers because I really thought that it will be just like an ordinary day," said store manager Chirapan McGuire.

"This year is actually busy, as last year was kind of quiet…Lately, we got a lot of customers from employees of Best Sunshine. Today, we have people shopping for clothes," she added.

Ayana Tengco from Garapan was one of the early shoppers at I Love Saipan. She needed to replenish her clothes. "I got clothes for school and for whenever I go out with family and friends. I was happy that they were really cheap and the quality is nice," she said.

Payless Shoes store manager Mariaflor DeLeon Guerrero thought that shoes would be the last thing on people's minds after Typhoon Yutu. "After the typhoon, we weren't really expecting this much turnout because many people lost their houses and belongings. I expected them to spend more for their immediate needs like house, furniture etc., but…our Black Friday sale was quite successful," she said.

"Last year's sale was really successful as our store was totally packed. Now, customers come and go. We are feeling great, however, to help the community this way that's why we are giving this kind of promotion to help them to be able to purchase items that they need," she added.

Nenita Salvador of Chalan Kiya, who works as a cleaner, was eager to use the shoes she found. "I lost my work shoes during the typhoon and I am glad I found a pair that is comfortable and cheap. Our home has been damaged, so my family and I have been slowly repairing it," she said.

"Buying new shoes was not a priority because I consider it a luxury at this time…but this makes me feel like going back to normal life and I am looking forward to wearing my new shoes," she added.

Hundreds of shoppers show up at an I Love Saipan outlet in Garapan last Friday to take advantage of the huge discounts and sale on clothing. MARK RABAGO

Apatang: Segregate your trash

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang reminds the public that unsegregated waste would not be collected.

Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* that his office would not collect waste if it is not properly segregated and if it is from a private business.

According to Apatang, his office has been cleaning up since before the all-clear signal was announced two days after Super Typhoon Yutu.

He noted that piles of waste that are not properly segregated would not be touched and would be ignored, lamenting that some people are "doing it, some of them are not."

"…The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would not allow us to do that," he said, adding that his office is also following a set of guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which reimburses the office for the labor.

"…We have to follow that," he said, referring to the segregation of roofing tin; green waste such as leaves; wood; e-waste, or electrical devices; and other types of waste. "If you have mixed debris and pile it up like a mountain, it is going to stay there," he said.

Apatang added that commercial waste, or waste collected from business entities and establishments, are also not allowed for collection.

"They have to do it on their own," he said, adding that FEMA only allows his office to pick up residential waste.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office field operations director Joann Aquino, there are currently 130 U.S. Army National Guard from Guam, about 94 members of the U.S. Air National Guard from Guam, about 60 members under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and several CNMI Museum staff focusing on debris removal throughout the island.

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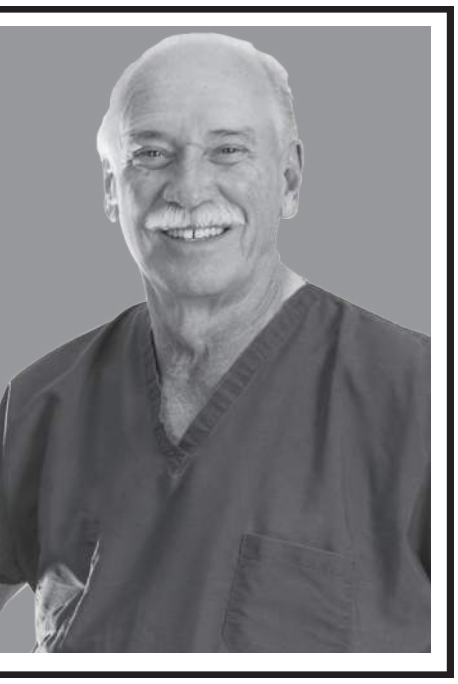

36th CRG brings relief, inspiration after devastation

U.S. Air Force staff sergeant Keaton Truman, 36th Mobility Response Squadron crew chief, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, offloads a truck from an Antonov An-225 Mriya on Saipan on Nov. 3, 2018. The supplies were used for recovery operations after Super Typhoon Yutu, the strongest tropical cyclone to pass over Saipan and Tinian in the CNMI, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane. Truman participated in back-to-back relief operations, which started on Oct. 5, 2018 in Indonesia. U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT. JT MAY III

Picture shows what used to be Daverrick Camacho's bedroom in the southern part of Saipan on Nov. 3, 2018. It serves as an illustration of destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu on Oct. 25, 2018. Many families lost everything during the typhoon and are coping by living in tents. U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT. JT MAY III

By MASTER SGT. JAMES MAY
36TH CONTINGENCY RESPONSE GROUP

On Oct. 25, Daverrick Camacho, a firefighter from Saipan, woke-up to a nightmare turned reality. Everything he worked toward was wiped off the face of the earth. The place he called home and held family gatherings was nothing more than darkly twisted debris, scattered across the front lawn.

Camacho was grateful that his family was safe, but soon realized they survived Super Typhoon Yutu, the strongest tropical cyclone ever to pass over Saipan and Tinian, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane.

As he assessed the damage, he was sickened to his stomach. He lost pictures of deceased loved-ones and family heirlooms that were irreplaceable. The burden of the world felt like 200-lb weight on his shoulders.

He gathered himself and walked to a tent his family pitched and heard, "Dad, I guess today is a great day for camping." Everyone laughed and something beautiful happened in the darkness. He noticed a sign his kids painted that read "CNMI We Got This!"

That same day, the U.S. Air Force called their "Ace in the Hole" unit to support relief operations on Saipan and Tinian. Before the call, the unit was performing humanitarian assistance operations in Balikpapan and Palu, Indonesia. This was in response to a 7.5-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that left 2,000 dead and 435,000 displaced.

U.S. Air Force staff sergeant Deangelo Sidney, 36th Mobility Response Squadron aerial porter, secures a pallet on a Halverson loader on Saipan on Nov. 5, 2018. In response to Super Typhoon Yutu, members from 36th Contingency Response Group and Indo-Pacific Command are supporting recovery efforts alongside CNMI's civil and local officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT. JT MAY III

The 36th Contingency Response Group from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam has been on back-to-back humanitarian and relief missions since Oct. 4 encompassing four islands.

"It's nice to see the military respond so fast, it's like having an airshow in our backyard," said Camacho

Who we are

The 36th CRG incorporates more than 30 different jobs into one close-knit team. It is a rapid-deployable unit designed at the initiative of Air Force leadership to be a "first-in" force to secure an airfield and establish and maintain airfield operations.

The group is composed of the 36th Mobility Response Squadron, the 554th RED HORSE Squadron, the 644th Combat Communications Squadron, and the 736th Security Forces Squadron.

"I know I have asked a lot from our guys, especially with the 24-hour notices we received, but I also know what we're capable of and our diverse skill sets," said Col. Daniel Roesch, 36th CRG commander. "Our work could mean the difference between life or death."

A small footprint with huge impact

Since Oct 5, the 36th CRG has managed airlift for 211 sorties, 1,427 passengers, and partnered with 14 countries to transport 702 displaced people to safety. They have offloaded and downloaded 15 million lbs of humanitarian and recovery supplies for the U.S. Agency for International Development and Federal Emergency Management Agency missions so far.

"Experiences like these remind me that we have the best airmen in the Air Force in the 36th CRG," said Chief Master Sgt. William Hebb, 36th CRG superintendent.

All supplies delivered to the four islands were coordinated, directed, packed, offloaded and downloaded by 36th CRG members. For the missions to be successful each person was required to not only know their job but the person's job to their left and right.

They train and prepare for worst-case scenarios, such as someone getting sick or needing to forward deploy. The built-in redundancy is practiced at home station to not only make the member more diverse but ensures the mission will not be affected.

'We're all human'

At first glance, you would never know these men and women completed such monumental tasks. At closer look, their eyes, faces, and hands reveal the truth. Destruction, heartache, wind burns, sun blisters, fatigue and working 12-14 hours shifts in 100-degree weather, took a physical and emotional toll.

No celebrations, complaints or attaboys, but instead they showed humility, military bearing and razor-sharp focus. On a few occasions, members had tears in their eyes after they were told thank you by people who lost everything

"When I look at the news or I meet people affected by the typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis, I think about my family, and I get emotional because this can happen to anyone," said master sergeant Jaime Almquist, 36th Mobility Response Squadron contingency response team chief. "If I must work an 18-hour shift to get people the supplies they need, I'm honored to do whatever I can because they're now my family, and it's our responsibility."

Haden, an 8-year-old from Yona, Guam and neighbor of one of the 36 CRG members, was inspired to raise money for people on Saipan after hearing about their humanitarian missions. On Nov. 15, Haden raised $200 selling lemonade in front of her house.

"I hope the money goes to the schools and the college that got destroyed," said Haden. "I'm sorry your island went through this but remember people like me are here to help."

What the future holds

At any time or anyplace "SEND ME" is belted at the top of their lungs immediately after someone says "36th CRG." It's not just a chant to inspire troops, but a request. Each member in the group wants to contribute to every mission and is disappointed when they're told to take a knee.

"One of my priorities as commander is to either have myself, squadron commanders or my group chief out with our teams when possible," said Roesch. "I know we have strong leadership through our officer ranks down to our youngest airmen, but our collective teamwork allows us to tackle objectives and readjust to obstacles we've faced."

With the backing and support from USAID, FEMA, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Pacific Air Forces and 36th Wing, the sky is the limit for humanitarian relief operations.

2nd Lt. Eric Baldwin, 36th Civil Engineering Squadron pavement engineer, augmented aerial porters assigned to the 36th MRS while in Indonesia. He learned pallet building and fully integrated with the team. Roesch recognized Baldwin as a superior performer for propelling the mission with his hard work.

Staff sergeant Kelsey Cook, 36th Force Support Squadron career development supervisor, and senior airman Kelby Hernandez, 36th Comptroller Squadron budget analyst, are few of the many members from the 36th Wing working with the 36th CRG supporting operations on Saipan.

Haden and many others highlight the fact it's rarely a solo operation, but a joint, multinational and interagency collaboration. No one can predict the future, but selfless, dedicated airmen from the 36th CRG has proven time and time again that they're ready for any task or mission.

Camacho and his family have taken to rebuilding what they've lost.

"One day at a time, we're slowly transitioning from survivor mode," said Camacho. "My family is healthy, and we now have FEMA tents and running water. Thank you all for leaving your family to help mine."

COTA continues to provide transportation

Since before Super Typhoon Yutu's landfall, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has transported a total of 575 individuals to designated shelters as of Nov. 24, 2018.

"The prioritization of transportation continues for displaced residents, and it will continue to be prioritized as we assist shelterees and residents transition back to their homes or avail of the number of health services on island," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Alfreda P. Camacho, the special assistant for public transportation, echoed this, assuring that COTA under the Office of the Governor continues to do everything in its capacity to support the CNMI's needs for transportation amidst recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu.

"More and more of our displaced residents are being transferred to designated shelters or transitioning back to their homes while others are able to seek health services with the assistance of public transportation," she said.

Camacho noted that support from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Authority has been steadfast, particularly with the activation of emergency measures in the wake of Yutu.

She related that FTA acting administrator K. Jane Williams herself personally called the CNMI moments after Super Typhoon Yutu passed the Marianas.

"The FTA's support of COTA with the recent competitive grant award of $6.38 million has come at a very pivotal time in the rebuilding of our community, affirming the necessity of a transit bus service on the islands…and for future disasters or situations involving emergency preparedness and response," she said.

Williams noted that public transportation plays a crucial role in emergency preparedness and response, and that COTA "stepped up admirably to provide evacuations and other critical efforts in response to Typhoon Yutu."

"I'm also hopeful that FTA's recent announcement of a $6.38 million grant to the Northern Mariana Islands to establish new transit bus service on the island of Saipan will aid in the recovery efforts and provide additional transportation options to those residing on the island," she added.

Since the COTA Agency Operations Center's activation on Oct. 22, COTA has assisted residents in emergency shelters throughout Saipan. These efforts include transportation for healthcare services, prescription pickups at the local pharmacies, places of employment, government agencies, transitioning back to their residences, etc.

If you need a ride, contact the COTA Demand Response Shared Ride Service at 664-2690. Current reservation hours are between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Saturday. ***(PR)***

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority continues to do everything in its capacity to support the CNMI's needs for transportation amidst recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OAG expert evaluates report on mental state of murder suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government's own expert evaluated last week the report on the mental competence of Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, who has been in jail since October 2017 over the killing of his landlord and injuring her husband in Chalan Kanoa.

Assistant attorney general Robert Charles Lee said that Parongan, through his lawyer, was mentally evaluated by Dr. Martin Blinder months ago and that Blinder issued his report on May 19, 2018.

The government's own expert then evaluated the results of Dr. Blinder's report, said Lee without disclosing their expert's evaluation.

Lee discussed briefly the evaluation issue in the government's response to the Office of the Public Defender's motion to conduct a speedy trial the case against Parongan.

At a status conference last month, the prosecution informed Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho about the status of Parongan's mental evaluation issue.

After hearing from the lawyers, Camacho moved the status hearing to Jan. 30, 2019, to allow the Office of the Attorney General's expert to conduct its mental evaluation on Parongan.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for Parongan, also filed on that same status conference a one-sentence demand for speedy trial.

"Defendant again renews his demand for a speedy jury trial," Dominski said.

Lee submitted in court last week a two-page response to the defendant's motion for a speedy trial.

In the government's response, Lee said that that demand for speedy trial does not cite any legal authority.

Presumably, Lee said, Parongan is invoking the Sixth Amendment Speedy Trial Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the speedy trial right established in Article 1 of the CNMI Constitution.

Lee said defendant's requested mental evaluation—and the amount of time it took to complete it—is unquestionably the primary reason for the delay in Parongan's trial.

He said the amount of time since Parongan's arrest up to his May 19, 2018, mental evaluation should not be counted when calculating whether Parongan's right to a speedy trial has been violated.

Lee said the additional delay caused by the second evaluation should also be excluded from this calculation, as this evaluation was necessary based on Blinder's report.

Parongan, 56, has been in jail since he was arrested shortly after the incident that occurred in October 2017. No bail was imposed because it's a murder case.

Through his counsel, Parongan asserted last July a plea of not guilty for reason of insanity.

The OAG charged Parongan with first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Police said that Parongan confessed during their interview to smoking methamphetamine and drinking 12 cans of beer on the day of the incident.

The female victim suffered multiple stab wounds, while her husband sustained 12 injuries in different parts of the head and body, police said.

The woman was reportedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan when the two got into an argument in the evening of Oct. 29, 2017. He allegedly stabbed the woman and her husband with a kitchen knife.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (November 9, 2018)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. ITEMS:
1. Terminal Tariff Emergency Regulations
2. Saipan International Airport PAPI/REIL Installation Project- CM Amendment 2
3. Supplemental Budget Requests
a. Saipan PAPI/REIL
b. ARFF Radios
c. Rota ARFF Building Renovations
4. Ricondo PFC Contract – Change Order No. 1
5. GRO ARFF Building Renovations CM Amendment No. 3
6. Super Typhoon Yutu Recovery/Christmas Donations
7. Governor's Directive

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors
Date: November 23, 2018

P&A Corporation
P & A HARDWARE SALE'S
WINNERS HARDWARE
Steel Pipe • Plates • Beams • Others
Open: 08:00 ~ 17:00 / Mon ~ Sat
Location: Afetna Road, San Antonio
Contact: 235-3313 / 285-2008
SUPPORTING OUR ISLAND'S RESTORATION
#marianasstrong

FOR URGENT MATERIALS NEEDED:

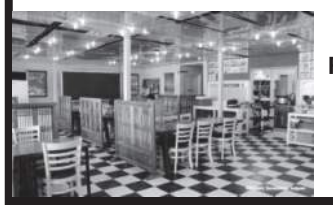
Galvanized C-Channel, Angle Pipe,
C Pipe, Roofing Tin, Generator

Generator (Gasoline)
Maker: YAMABISI
Model: EM8500-C
Power(KVA): 8.5KVA

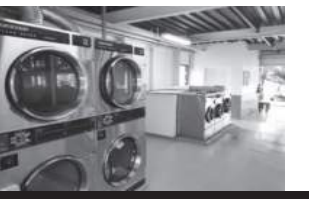
Available Now! 1st Shipment Items
Yamabisi 8.5KVA, 220V, Gasoline / C-Channel
Tin Roof (2nd shipment will be available Nov. 27)

Stocks are limited. Pre-order is recommended.
(FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED)

Winners Restaurant & Coin-Laundry Available at the same location.



Restaurant Open:
Mon~Sun:
8:00am~2:00pm
5:00pm~9:00pm



Coin-Laundry Open:
Mon~Sun:
6:00am~4:00am

Relief Operations

Members of the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers move vehicles, equipment and material in preparation for Tropical Storm Man-Yi last Nov. 21, in Koblerville.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Tech. Sgt. Joe San Nicholas, 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, moves plywood in preparation for Tropical Storm Man-Yi last Nov. 21, in Koblerville.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Staff Sgt. Carlos Paulino and Tech. Sgt. John Camacho, both members of the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, fold the CNMI flag in preparation for Tropical Storm Man-Yi last Nov. 21, in Koblerville.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Members of the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers cover plywood in preparation for Tropical Storm Man-Yi last Nov. 21, in Koblerville.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Senior airman Coby Hyatt, 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, builds the frame of an Alaskan Small Shelter System in Koblerville. The shelter will be used to store equipment the engineers will need to complete their mission.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Senior airman Jerome Solivar, 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers journeyman, guides a front loader during Tropical Storm Man-Yi preparation in Koblerville.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Airman 1st Class Adrian Blas, 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, hammers a stake to secure the foundation of an Alaskan Small Shelter System in Koblerville last Nov. 23. The shelter will be used to house the engineers' equipment and materials.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Members of the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers and the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron build an Alaskan Small Shelter System in the village of Koblerville last Nov. 23, 2018.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

Sixto introduces no overcharging bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) has introduced Senate Bill 20-114 that would protect water consumers from being overcharged by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on their water bills, in the wake of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu last month.

"This is to ensure residences and businesses of the CNMI are not overcharged by CUC for water usage resulting from water leaks caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. The bill I introduced is actually a response to the community right after Yutu," said Igisomar.

He related that soon after Yutu destroyed homes and facilities on the island, he and his wife went out to deliver water to those who needed them and help people with their other needs. Yutu, he said, had also damaged CUC water pipes.

"A lot of pipes were broken and so when CUC brought back water distribution in some areas, there were a lot of people who were not aware of it. Either they were staying in shelters or in the homes of their relatives. That's why, when they [returned] to their homes, they found that their water faucets or pipes were just flowing," said Igisomar.

S.B. 20-114's purpose, he said, is intended to encourage CUC not to charge its water customers exorbitant fees for their billing after Oct. 24, November and December, since some won't have the money to pay. "A lot of that water had continuously flowed out of their pipes, without them knowing and that their meters were running. These people can be facing $3,000 to $5,000 with their water utility bills or 100 to 200 percent of their regular monthly billing," said Igisomar. "So the purpose of the bill is to direct CUC for their billing to at least go back to the month of September for the charging rate and offer those people with flat rate to try and pro-rate their billing for their water."

He added that CUC should apply this system to all of their customers who would see a sudden increase in their water bills and make the adjustment accordingly. "It is a simple bill, but the purpose is to assist individuals with financial problems. Aside from rebuilding their lives and homes, they would face exorbitant CUC bills."

"I will also send the bill to CUC to get their comments. Hopefully, we could expedite the process and see what input [CUC] can put in. Depending on their feedback, we will hopefully act on the bill immediately so we can take care of our people."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

RO station at Pakpak Beach closed

The U.S. Department of Defense discontinued the reverse osmosis station at Pakpak Beach, as well as the water buffaloes stationed at Mt. Carmel Cathedral field and Koblerville Fire Station, last Saturday, Nov. 25, 2018, at 6pm. The water buffaloes were closed at 6pm yesterday. ***(PR)***

Closure of water filling station

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has closed its Koblerville water filling station due to zero customer demands for the last two days. The closure was effective last Saturday, Nov. 25, 2015. For more information, contact the CUC Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

FHB adjusts Saipan branch hours

Effective today, Nov. 26, all First Hawaiian Bank branches on Saipan will be open during the weekdays from 9am to 3pm until further notice.

First Hawaiian Bank customers with Internet connectivity may access their account information online via FHB Online and Mobile or may contact the bank's Customer Service Call Center for at 1-888-844-4444. FHB's Saipan branches are at the Gualo Rai Commercial Center on Middle Road and Oleai Center on Beach Road. ***(PR)***

Continued access for GWA to wells in Guam

Joint Region Marianas completed coordination with the U.S. Department of Education to facilitate the Guam Waterworks Authority's continued ownership and access to three water wells in the Marbo area of Yigo, as the U.S. DOE reverts the Marbo property to the federal government.

Consistent with the provision in the U.S. DOE deed to the government of Guam, the Department of the Navy will administer the Marbo site effective Nov. 20.

"Facilitating continued access to the GWA water wells on Marbo property is a result of One Guam partnering with our government utility agency," said Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas commanding officer Capt. Dan Turner. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Members of the Marianas Rugby Club volunteer to serve meals at the U.S. Salvation Army's soup kitchen last Thursday, for Thanksgiving, sticking by the motto "We rise by helping others." Other photo shows the Marianas Rugby Club with the first lady Diann Torres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded fromwww.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 – RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE
MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***November 27, 2018, 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of September 06, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Project: CMS KANNAT TABLA QUARRY – The Construction and Materials Supply, Inc. (CMS) is currently engaging in quarrying activities of an old and existing quarry site located on two leased public land properties in Kannat Tabla, specifically identified as Lot Nos. 035 H 01 and 035 H 02. Total area for the two lots is approximately 60,481 square meters, more or less.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-95-X-48, Amendment 2018-1
1) Discussions Regarding Kannat Tabla Residents' Concerns
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Amendment Status Determination

B. Project: CMS SOLTEN QUARRY – The Construction and Material Supply, LLC (CMS) is requesting to extend its existing quarry operation in San Vicente, Saipan. This project is permitted under CRM Major Siting Permit No. SMS-97-X-59 and in 2016, CMS amended its permit to expand its rock quarry operation on approximately 20,800 square meters of private land identified as Lot No. 062 H 03. The proposed operation is projected to yield about one million cubic yards of limestone materials over a period of 10 years.
CMS issued a letter dated September 7, 2018 requesting to renew Permit No. SMS-97-X-59, Amendment 2006 to continue its quarry operations for a period of ten years or more with an option to renew for an additional term depending on the extraction rate driven by the demand for quarry products in the CNMI. Furthermore, CMS will not be changing its use and project yield of one million cubic yards of extracted materials but would like to include a temporary use for stockpiling of aggregates being extracted from nearby CMS quarry sites.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-59, Amendment 2019-1
1) Discussion, Comments, and/or Questions
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

C. Project: IMPERIAL PACIFIC RESORT CONDITIONAL COMPLETION EXTENSION – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC is requesting to extend the completion date of the amended completion date of August 31, 2018 to February 28, 2021 as approved by the Casino License Agreement Amendment No. 6.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2015-X-029, Amendment 2019-1
1) Discussion, Comments, and/or Questions
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Amendment Status Determination, *Final Determination*

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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We want to make this country great, and then we will build a wall to keep out the illegals!
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EDITORIAL

Chicago hospital shooting: Remembering the 3 professionals who served the city

The emergency room doctor, the pharmacist, the police officer. All were individuals, yes, with their own life stories. But they were professionals, too, at the early stages of demanding careers that required intense training and hard work—sacrifices they expected would come with a long-term payoff. They had prepared themselves for good jobs serving the public good.

O'Neal

■ Tamara O'Neal, 38, was the physician. A 2014 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, she worked nearly a year as an ER doctor in northwest Indiana before moving to Mercy Hospital & Medical Center.

Less

■ Dayna Less, 24, was the pharmacist, a recent Purdue University graduate in her first year of residency at Mercy.

■ Samuel Jimenez, 28, was the Chicago police officer. He had just finished his probationary period, and had been on the force less than two years. He was on patrol duty and answered the call of an emergency at Mercy.

See CHICAGO on Next Page

'Medicare for All'? A grim prognosis

By ROBERT E. MOFFIT
The Heritage Foundation

Robert E. Moffit, Ph.D., is a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation's Center for Health Policy Studies.

Now that Democrats are poised to take control of the U.S. House of Representatives in January, taxpayers can expect a major push to achieve the "progressive" goal of total government control over American health care.

Their leading legislative proposals for government-controlled health system—H.R.676 and S. 1804—are broadly similar. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), leader of the "Medicare for All Caucus" in the House, is rewriting the House bill (H.R. 676) to bring it more into line with the Senate bill (S. 1804) authored by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

The thematic message of "Medicare for All" is fetching, assuming one doesn't read the fine print. When Americans start paying close attention, they're not likely to find the substance of these bills very attractive.

Both bills would outlaw virtually all private and employer-sponsored health plans now covering 181 million Americans. Millions of federal workers and their families who get their coverage today through the popular and successful Federal Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) would also lose it.

Ironically, "Medicare for All" would also eliminate, the Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicare supplemental insurance programs now covering over 58 million senior and disabled Americans. Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance programs (covering over 73 million more) would disappear, too.

Advocates of these proposals promise that total government control over American health care will secure higher quality care at lower cost.

Forget it.

The Veterans Administration (VA) operates America's premiere home-grown "single payer" health system. In 2014, CNN reported that veterans would "languish and die" because of the program's bureaucratically manipulated "waiting lists." The federal government's shocking record of poor quality of care for America's veterans soon exploded into one of the nation's worst health care scandals.

In Britain's National Health Service (NHS), the granddaddy of single payer health care, long patient waits for care have been a recurrent feature of the system. In December 2017, almost one third of NHS regional directors reported that they were unable to deliver "comprehensive care."

And in January 2018, the NHS cancelled more than 50,000 "non-urgent" surgeries, as British doctors charged that their patients were being subjected to "third world" conditions. Historically, British survival rates for "urgent" medical conditions—such as lung, colon and prostate cancer—fall well short of America's performance.

It is true, of course, that the British spend less than Americans on health care – and, of course, they get less. British patients have less access to advanced diagnostic technologies, such as MRIs and CT scanners, and on a per capita basis, they have fewer doctors and nurses than almost every other Western industrialized country. British doctors and nurses are also paid far less than their American counterparts.

Tight government budgets can control costs; and government cost control translates into reduced availability of services. Since 2010, for example, the NHS closed 40 percent of their "walk-in" clinics, requiring more patient trips to overcrowded and understaffed British hospitals for the treatment of more routine medical problems.

Since the House Democrats are rewiring their version of the "single payer" bill to read more like Sen. Sanders' "Medicare for All" proposal, the good news is that taxpayers will get a better look at its true costs.

The Urban Institute, a prominent liberal Washington think tank, estimates the 10-year cost of the Sanders proposal (S.1804) at $32 trillion. Former Medicare Trustee Charles Blahous pegs the cost at $32.6 trillion. "Medicare for All" will generate huge costs, not cost-savings.

Those costs will necessitate huge tax increases. Professor Kenneth Thorpe of Emory University, a former adviser to President Clinton, estimates that Congress would have to impose additional health care payroll and income taxes that would consume 20 percent of payroll. Thorpe further estimates that over 70 percent of all working families would wind up paying even more for health care than they do today.

Then there's the matter of options. Both the House and Senate proposals restrict the ability of doctors and patients to contract for medical care outside of the system. Both also, as noted, eliminate private insurance alternatives to the government program.

And if the government program does not deliver the quality of care patients want or need, tough. There's no exit.

"Medicare for All" sounds appealing. But total government control of health care comes at a very high price—and not just in terms of money.

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Break up Facebook (and, while we're at it, Google, Apple and Amazon)

By ROBERT B. REICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The New York Times revealed last week that Facebook executives withheld evidence of Russian activity on the Facebook platform far longer than previously disclosed. They also employed a political opposition research firm to discredit critics.

There's a larger story here.

America's Gilded Age of the late 19th century began with a raft of innovations—railroads, steel production, oil extraction—but culminated in mammoth trusts owned by "robber barons" who used their wealth and power to drive out competitors and corrupt American politics.

We're now in a second Gilded Age—ushered in by semiconductors, software and the Internet—that has spawned a handful of giant high-tech companies.

Facebook and Google dominate advertising. They're the first stops for many Americans seeking news. Apple dominates smartphones and laptop computers. Amazon is now the first stop for a third of all American consumers seeking to buy anything.

This consolidation at the heart of the American economy creates two big problems.

First, it stifles innovation. Contrary to the conventional view of a U.S. economy bubbling with inventive small companies, the rate at which new job-creating businesses have formed in the United States has been halved since 2004, according to the census.

A major culprit: Big tech's sweeping patents, data, growing networks, and dominant platforms have become formidable barriers to new entrants.

The second problem is political. These massive concentrations of economic power generate political clout that's easily abused, as the New York Times investigation of Facebook reveals. How long will it be before Facebook uses its own data and platform against critics? Or before potential critics are silenced even by the possibility?

America responded to the Gilded Age's abuses of corporate power with antitrust laws that allowed the government to break up the largest concentrations.

President Teddy Roosevelt went after the Northern Securities Company, a giant railroad trust financed by J.P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, the nation's two most powerful businessmen. The Supreme Court backed Roosevelt and ordered the company dismantled.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft broke up Rockefeller's sprawling Standard Oil empire.

It is time to use antitrust again. We should break up the hi-tech behemoths, or at least require that they make their proprietary technology and data publicly available and share their platforms with smaller competitors.

There would be little cost to the economy, since these giant firms rely on innovation rather than economies of scale—and, as noted, they're likely to be impeding innovation overall.

Is this politically feasible? Unlike the Teddy Roosevelt Republicans, Trump and his enablers in Congress have shown little appetite for antitrust enforcement.

But Democrats have shown no greater appetite—especially when it comes to Big Tech.

In 2012, the staff of the Federal Trade Commission's bureau of competition submitted to the commissioners a 160-page analysis of Google's dominance in the search and related advertising markets, and recommended suing Google for conduct that "has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation."

The Democrats' recent "better deal" platform, which they unveiled a few months before the midterm elections, included a proposal to attack corporate monopolies in industries as wide-ranging as airlines, eyeglasses and beer. But, notably, the proposal didn't mention Big Tech.

Maybe the Democrats are reluctant to attack Big Tech because the industry has directed so much political funding to Democrats. In the 2018 midterms, the largest recipient of Big Tech's largesse, ActBlue, a fundraising platform for progressive candidates, collected nearly $1 billion, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

As the Times investigation of Facebook makes clear, political power can't be separated from economic power. Both are prone to abuse.

One of the original goals of antitrust law was to prevent such abuses. "The enterprises of the country are aggregating vast corporate combinations of unexampled capital, boldly marching, not for economical conquests only, but for political power," warned Edward G. Ryan, the chief justice of Wisconsin's Supreme Court, in 1873.

Antitrust law was viewed as a means of preventing giant corporations from undermining democracy. "If we will not endure a king as a political power," thundered Ohio Sen. John Sherman, the sponsor of the nation's first antitrust law in 1890, "we should not endure a king over the production, transportation and sale" of what the nation produced.

We are now in a second Gilded Age similar to the first, when Congress enacted Sherman's law. As then, giant firms at the center of the American economy are distorting the market and our politics.

We must resurrect antitrust.

Robert Reich's latest book is The Common Good*, and his newest documentary is* Saving Capitalism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ayuda Foundation gives thanks

Thanksgiving Day is one of the best times of the year to remind ourselves of the many reasons to be grateful for the many blessings we receive from God.

Thanksgiving is also one of our most joyous holidays. Unfortunately, this Thanksgiving may be a little bleaker for our brothers and sisters in the CNMI because of the lingering effects of Super Typhoon Yutu.

But thanks to the generosity of many in Guam, the victims of Super Typhoon Yutu in the CNMI are living a little easier as donations of essential items to the Ayuda Foundation's CNMI typhoon relief fund continue to pour in.

Thus, this Thanksgiving, we in the Ayuda Foundation would like to thank the many donors who contributed in one way or another to the foundations' CNMI typhoon relief drive.

Thank you also to the other groups, individuals, and organizations who held their own CNMI typhoon relief drives. We are all in this together as we are all like one family in Micronesia.

From the biggest corporate donors to the smallest individual donations, all of the contributions, whether monetary or in-kind, will go a long way toward helping our unfortunate brothers and sisters in the CNMI.

Thank you, also, to the tireless Ayuda board members and volunteers who gave, and continue to give, so much of their valuable time and effort toward this worthy undertaking. Thank you for your compassion, for seeing the need, and responding.

And finally, we would like to thank the people of the CNMI for continuing to be strong despite the many challenges facing them. They serve as an inspiration, showing everyone in our region and the rest of the world how to act and deal with adversity in a dignified and graceful manner.

Call the Ayuda Foundation at (671) 473-3003 for more information.

Ayuda Foundation

Thanks

This is to thank all that are helping to fast-track our islands back to normal. The recovery progress is above and beyond what could be expected, very commendable, and very much appreciated. Particular appreciation to all that have come from elsewhere that work through long days, weekends, and holidays; the government and private organizations focused on getting schools, utilities, and other critical functions and services operational ahead of what was projected; and everyone's resiliency, efforts, and contributions.

Paul Plunkett
San Vicente

CHICAGO

From Page 10

As we learn about these three, one thought hovers: how representative the doctor, the pharmacist and the officer were of Chicago professionals. They were three people full of promise, going about their duties on Monday afternoon, able to anticipate everything that would come next in their lives based on all the efforts they'd made.

Jimenez "just seemed like the kind of person who really wanted to be the kind of police that we want," Town Hall District Commander Marc Buslik said. Jimenez was a "stellar recruit," said Sgt. Larry Snelling. "He was focused on being a police officer, and he really wanted the job. And you can always tell those people who want the job."

The doctor and the pharmacist also were stellar recruits who really wanted their jobs job. O'Neal had been studying psychology until she handled a human brain in lab class, said her father, Tom O'Neal. She experienced a sense of wonder in that moment, which convinced her to change tracks and head for med school. "We lost a beautiful, resilient, passionate doc," Dr. John Purakal, who trained O'Neal and treated her as she died, wrote on Twitter.

Dayna Less suffered from debilitating migraine-like headaches as a teenager. The illness inspired her to "give back" by becoming a pharmacist, said her father, Brian Less. Her family maintains a blog, mydaughters-headache.com, which provides support to other sufferers. In 2015, after surgery that cured her, Less was ebullient about her decision to go to pharmacy school. "There's nothing that can hold me back from living my life now," she wrote on the blog.

Jimenez

Reports of trouble at Mercy—an active shooter—came about 3:30 p.m. Monday. A man, later identified as O'Neal's former fiance, had confronted her outside the hospital, pulled out a gun and shot her repeatedly. Police arrived on the scene and pursued him inside the building. Jimenez was shot in the lobby; Less as she left an elevator. The shooter also died.

We know the doctor, the pharmacist and the police officer won't be forgotten by the many people they touched in their lives. The question is how the rest of us might honor their memories. Knowing their stories gives us that opportunity. And one of the grieving relatives has a suggestion.

Brian Less said his daughter overcame a debilitating illness to have a "wonderful life." That's how he wants her remembered. "I don't want her to be remembered as a victim, I absolutely do not," he said. "This was a girl who fought through adversity, who fought through major health challenges when she was 15 years old. ... Because she was given a second chance free, she decided to give back freely."

And so during the city's shock and mourning, all of us should share this appreciation of the pharmacist, the doctor and the police officer. They were dedicated professionals who gave back freely. We thank them for their work, and their example.

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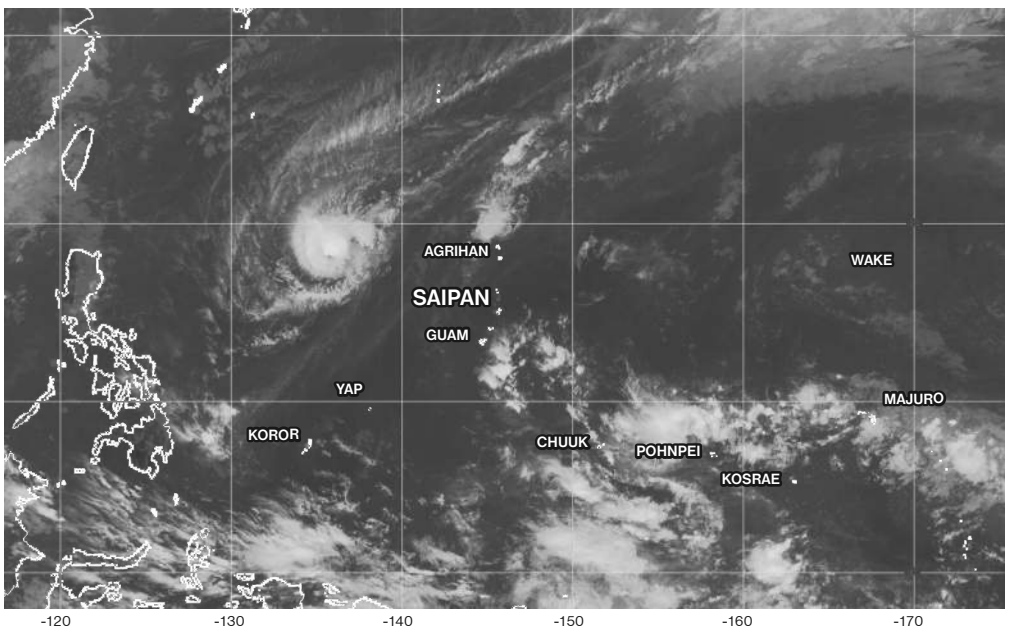
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:54 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Did update some winds to freshen forecast, with no other changes.A weak surface trough will generate a chance of showers and thunderstorms today and tonight. Satellite imagery does show a slight increase in clouds to the east of the Marianas. Lightning data also showed one or two thunderstorms with the area to the east...so isolated thunderstorms are possible today and tonight. Models keep deep layer moisture limited with 700 mb relative humidity at 70 percent or less. This would imply an isolated shower coverage. Dryer weather will prevail through the coming week with only isolated showers expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	66° / 59°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Showers	70° / 66°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°
London	Cloudy	46° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	79° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 72°
New York	Sunny	52° / 42°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Paris	Cloudy	43° / 36°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Washington, DC	Rain	55° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET
03:34 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.56
10:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.03
4:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.20
8:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:03 AM	8:44 PM
Tuesday	-	10:03 AM	9:46 PM
Wednesday	-	11:00 AM	10:47 PM
Thursday	-	11:52 AM	11:47 PM
Friday	-	12:41 AM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – *temporarily suspended*

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – *resume from Nov 28*

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – *resume from Nov 27*

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 *resume from Nov 28*
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 *resume from Nov 22*
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – *temporarily suspended*

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 27*

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 *resume from Nov 28*
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 *resume from Nov 22*
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 *resume from Nov 22*
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

In era of online retail, Black Friday still lures a crowd

AP

Crowds walk past a large store sign displaying a Black Friday discount in midtown Manhattan, Friday, Nov. 23, 2018, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—It would have been easy to turn on their computers at home over plates of leftover turkey and take advantage of the Black Friday deals most retailers now offer online.

But across the country, thousands of shoppers flocked to stores on Thanksgiving or woke up before dawn the next day to take part in this most famous ritual of American consumerism.

Shoppers spent their holiday lined up outside the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, by 4 p.m. Thursday, and the crowd had swelled to 3,000 people by the time doors opened at 5 a.m. Friday morning. In Ohio, a group of women was so determined, they booked a hotel room Thursday night to be closer to the stores. In New York City, one woman went straight from a dance club to a department store in the middle of the night.

Many shoppers said Black Friday is as much about the spectacle as it is about doorbuster deals.

Kati Anderson said she stopped at Cumberland Mall in Atlanta Friday morning for discounted clothes as well as "the people watching." Her friend, Katie Nasworthy, said she went to the mall instead of shopping online because she likes to see the Christmas decorations.

"It doesn't really feel like Christmas until now," said Kim Bryant, shopping in suburban Denver with her daughter and her daughter's friend, who had lined up at 5:40 a.m., then sprinted inside when the doors opened at 6 a.m.

Brick-and-mortar stores have worked hard to prove they can counter the competition from online behemoth Amazon. From Macy's to Target and Walmart, retailers are blending their online and store shopping experience with new tools like digital maps on smart phones and more options for shoppers to buy online and pick up at stores. And customers, frustrated with long checkout lines, can check out at Walmart and other stores with a salesperson in store aisles.

Consumers nearly doubled their online orders that they picked up at stores from Wednesday to Thanksgiving, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online spending.

Priscilla Page, 28, punched her order number into a kiosk near the entrance of a Walmart in Louisville, Kentucky. She found a good deal online for a gift for her boyfriend, then arrived at the store to retrieve it.

"I've never Black Friday-shopped before," she said, as employees delivered her bag minutes later. "I'm not the most patient person ever. Crowds, lines, waiting, it's not really my thing. This was a lot easier."

The holiday shopping season presents a big test for a U.S. economy, whose overall growth so far this year has relied on a burst of consumer spending. Americans upped their spending during the first half of 2018 at the strongest pace in four years, yet retail sales gains have tapered off recently. The sales totals over the next month will be a good indicator as to whether consumers simply paused to catch their breath or feel less optimistic about the economy in 2019.

Spain to back Brexit deal after UK agrees to Gibraltar terms

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union removed the last major obstacle to sealing an agreement on Brexit after Spain said it had reached a deal Saturday with Britain over Gibraltar on the eve of a summit where EU leaders will sign off on the divorce papers.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, who held preparatory talks with EU leaders Saturday evening, will then have the momentous task of selling the terms of the deal to a recalcitrant British Parliament and a nation still fundamentally split over whether the U.K. should leave the EU on March 29 and under what conditions.

May vowed to campaign "with my heart and soul" to win Parliament's backing for the deal."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who had threatened to oppose the deal, announced Saturday that Madrid would support the divorce agreement after the U.K. and the EU underscored Spain's say in the future of the disputed British territory of Gibraltar, which lies at the southern tip of the Mediterranean nation.

Spain wants the future of the tiny territory, which was ceded to Britain in 1713 but is still claimed by Spain, to be a bilateral issue between Madrid and London, not between Britain and the EU.

In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk assured Sanchez that Spain's "prior agreement" would be needed on matters concerning Gibraltar.

Spain claimed a major diplomatic victory.

"Europe and the United Kingdom have accepted the conditions imposed by Spain," Sanchez said. "Therefore, as a consequence of this, Spain will lift its veto and tomorrow will vote in favor of Brexit."

But Britain said the statement merely clarified the existing state of affairs. May said Britain had conceded nothing on the sovereignty of Gibraltar.

"I will always stand by Gibraltar," May said. "The U.K. position on the sovereignty of Gibraltar has not changed and will not change."

The move should allow EU leaders speedily to sign off on the Brexit agreement at a special summit Sunday morning.

May hopes to leave EU headquarters on Sunday with a legally binding agreement on the withdrawal terms for Britain's departure from the EU on March 29, as well as an ambitious but vague political declaration on future relations between the two sides.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ecuador: $550 million needed to respond to Venezuela exodus

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Officials in Ecuador say it will cost the small South American nation $550 million to respond to the influx of Venezuelan migrants. Vice Minister Santiago Chavez said Friday the price of health, education and other services migrants require is quickly adding up. Chavez made the remarks as leaders from throughout Latin America gathered in Ecuador's capital to discuss a joint response to the exodus. The United Nations says more than 3 million Venezuelans have fled their country's economic and humanitarian crisis in recent years, putting a strain on governments throughout the region. The World Bank recently estimated it will cost Colombia upward of $1 billion over the next year to tend to the surge of migrants.

Brazil police issue 22 arrest warrants in corruption probe

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's federal police issued 22 arrest warrants Friday as part of a probe into a corruption and money laundering scheme involving construction of the new headquarters of the state oil company in the northeastern city of Salvador. Police said they had arrested 17 people so far, but details were not immediately available. The ongoing 'Car Wash' kickback probe has engulfed the state oil company Petrobras and ensnared politicians and businessmen. The latest arrest warrants were issued weeks after the federal judge who was instrumental in the investigation resigned from his position and agreed to be justice minister in the government of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro. Former Judge Sergio Moro said at the time that investigations would continue in the hands of local judges in the southern city of Curitiba, where many of the cases have been tried. In a separate event at the business-focused think-tank Fundacao Getulio Vargas in Rio de Janeiro, Moro said he would present a bill to fight corruption and organized crime in February. Moro reiterated that he had been given carte blanche by the President-elect to carry out investigations. Moro said he would set up task forces similar to those he used in the 'Car Wash' probe. "The creation of task forces focused on specific criminal organizations and large corruption schemes is the model to be pursued," Moro said.

Nation

Protesters march after death of man who wasn't mall shooter

HOOVER, Ala. (AP)— Protesters on Saturday marched through an Alabama shopping mall where police killed a black man they later acknowledged was not the triggerman in a Thanksgiving night shooting that wounded two people.

An officer shot and killed 21-year-old Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford, Jr. of Hueytown while responding to the Thursday mall shooting. Police said Bradford was fleeing the scene with a handgun.

Hoover police initially told reporters Bradford had shot a teen at the mall, but later retracted the statement.

"We knew that was false," said stepmother Cynthia Bradford when she heard police were blaming him for the shooting. She described her stepson, who went by E.J., as a respectful young man whose father worked at a jail for the Birmingham Police Department.

Hoover Police Captain Gregg Rector said investigators now believe that more than two people were involved in the initial fight ahead of the shooting, and that "at least one gunman" is still at large who could be responsible. Police said while Bradford "may have been involved in some aspect of the altercation, he likely did not fire the rounds that injured the 18-year-old victim." Rector said police regret that their initial statement about Bradford was not accurate.

The shooting remains under investigation, including whether Bradford played any role in the initial disturbance,

The unanswered questions stirred emotions in the suburb outside the majority-black city of Birmingham.

More than 200 demonstrators, including several relatives, chanted "E.J" and "no justice, no peace" as they marched past Christmas shoppers at the mall. They held a moment of silence at the spot outside a shoe store where Bradford was killed.

Family members described their horror of finding out from social media that Bradford was dead. Video circulated on social media of Bradford lying in a pool of blood on the mall floor.

Speaking to The Associated Press on Saturday night from his family's home, Bradford's father Emantic Bradford Sr. called his son, "a good kid, a very good kid."

Bradford Sr. said his son had a permit to carry a weapon for self-defense. He said he doesn't know exactly what happened at the mall, but said it was hurtful that police portrayed his son as the shooter.

"They were so quick to rush to judgment. ... I knew my son didn't do that. People rushed to judgment. They shouldn't have done that," Bradford Sr. said.

Family members said they plan to ask to see body camera footage from officers. Hoover police have not confirmed to the AP whether such footage exists.

Carlos Chaverst, an activist in Birmingham who organized the protest, said that when authorities acknowledged that the person killed was not the actual shooter, "that sent us in an uproar." More protests will be held in the future to hold officials accountable, he added.

"When we found out about this incident, there were questions from the jump. People were upset because a man was shot and killed by police in our own backyard," he said.

The incident began Thanksgiving night with a fight and shooting in suburban Birmingham at the Riverchase Galleria, a mall crowded with Black Friday bargain hunters. An 18-year-old man was shot twice and a 12-year-old bystander was shot in the back. Hoover police said Friday morning that the girl was in stable condition.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is investigating the incident since it is an officer-involved shooting. The Hoover Police Department is conducting its own internal investigation.

The officer who shot Bradford was placed on administrative leave while authorities investigate the shooting. The officer's name was not released publicly. The officers were not hurt.

Video posted on social media by shoppers showed a chaotic scene as shoppers fled.

A witness, Lexi Joiner, told Al.com she was shopping with her mother when the gunfire started. Joiner said she heard six or seven shots and was ordered, along with some other shoppers, into a supply closet for cover.

"It was terrifying," Joiner said.

AP

In this Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018 photo, a police officer speaks to a woman after gunfire erupted Thanksgiving night at the Riverchase Galleria in Hoover, Ala.

Rain tamps down California fire but turns grim search soggy

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)— The catastrophic wildfire in Northern California is nearly out after several days of rain, but searchers are still completing the meticulous task of combing through now-muddy ash and debris for signs of human remains.

Crews resumed the grim work Saturday as rain cleared out of the devastated town of Paradise. Some were looking through destroyed neighborhoods for a second time as hundreds of people remain unaccounted for. They were searching for telltale fragments or bone or anything that looks like a pile of cremated ashes.

The nation's deadliest wildfire in a century has killed at least 84 people, and 475 are on a list of those reported missing. The flames ignited Nov. 8 in the parched Sierra Nevada foothills and quickly spread across 240 square miles (620 square kilometers), destroying most of Paradise in a day.

The fire burned down nearly 19,000 buildings, most of them homes, and displaced thousands of people, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

The two-week firefight got a boost Wednesday from the first significant storm to hit California. It dropped an estimated 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain over the burn area over a three-day period without causing significant mudslides, said Hannah Chandler-Cooley of the National Weather Service.

The rain helped extinguish hotspots in smoldering areas, and containment increased to 95 percent. Despite the inclement weather, more than 800 volunteers kept searching for remains.

Crews worked on-and-off amid a downpour Friday. While the rain made everybody colder and wetter, they kept the mission in mind, said Chris Stevens, a search volunteer who wore five layers of clothing to keep warm.

"It doesn't change the spirits of the guys working," he said. "Everyone here is super committed to helping the folks here."

His search crew went home to Orange County on Saturday after completing its assignment. Authorities also lifted evacuation orders for certain sections of Paradise.

In Southern California, more residents have returned to areas evacuated in a destructive fire as crews repaired power, telephone and gas utilities.

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said they were in the last phase of repopulating Malibu and unincorporated areas of the county. At the height of the fire, 250,000 fled their homes.

New York dog found in Florida 18 months after disappearing

SEFFNER, Fla. (AP)—Eighteen months after Sinatra the brown and white Husky disappeared from his home in New York, he ended up wandering in a Florida neighborhood where 13-year-old Rose Verrill took him in.

Turns out, Sinatra once belonged to 16-year-old Zion Willis, who died in a gun accident in Brooklyn, New York, in 2015. He'll be reunited with her family in Baltimore on Sunday.

The Tampa Bay Times reports that while the dog has been found, no one knows how it traveled 1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) from New York to Seffner, which is near Tampa.

But this much is known. Sinatra was a 14th birthday gift for Zion, who was an avid dancer and an animal lover. The blue-eyed dog loved to chase raccoons and squirrels, the teen's father told the newspaper. One day, a year-and-a-half after Zion's death, the dog never came home. It was a tragic loss for Zion's grieving parents.

Some 18 months passed before the Florida teen found Sinatra near her home.

"He's been such a wonderful guest and such a sweet dog," said Rose's mother, Denise Verril. "I can see why they love him so much."

The Verills and family friend Jeanne Baldi started trying to find Sinatra's owners. They took him to a veterinarian who was not able to retrieve much from an identification chip. They turned to the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, which came up with a possible name — Willis Les — and a phone number that was off by one digit.

That's when Baldi took to social media. She reached out to Lesmore Willis with the information she had.

"I never would have thought he was from Brooklyn," Baldi said. "I messaged Lesmore over Facebook and didn't think it would lead to anything when I saw where he was from."

A few days later, Willis messaged back. As they compared notes, they both spoke of a dog that had a problem with its right foot.

Baldi sent along a photo and Willis confirmed it was Sinatra.

"I told him that he was safe and well taken care of with Denise," Baldi said.

Willis spoke of his daughter's love for the dog. "That was her dog and their bond was strong," he said. "She loved to take him on her walks to the store. The love was obvious. When he was gone, it was like losing a part of her."

After Sinatra disappeared, they put up flyers and spent months searching.

Asia

Indian police map area of island where US man was killed

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police said they have mapped the area of a remote Indian island where tribespeople were seen burying the body of an American adventurer and Christian missionary after allegedly killing him with arrows this month.

But before they can even attempt to recover the body of 26-year-old John Allen Chau, authorities have to learn from experts "the nuances of the group's conduct and behavior, particularly in this kind of violent behavior," said Dependra Pathak, the director-general of police of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where North Sentinel Island is located.

During their visit to the island's surroundings on Friday, investigators spotted four or five North Sentinel islanders moving in the area from a distance of about 500 meters (1,600 feet) from a boat and studied their behavior for several hours, said Pathak.

"We have more or less identified the site and the area in general," Pathak said by phone on Saturday.

Indian authorities have been struggling to figure out how to get the remains of Chau, who was killed by North Sentinel islanders who apparently shot him with arrows and then buried his body on the beach.

Friday's visit was the second boat expedition of the week by a team of police and officials from the forest department, tribal welfare department and coast guard, Pathak said. The officials took two of the seven people arrested for helping Chau get close to the island in an effort to determine his route and the circumstances of his death. The fishermen who had taken Chau to the shore saw the tribespeople dragging and burying his body on the morning of Nov. 17.

Officials typically don't travel to the North Sentinel area, where people live as their ancestors did thousands of years ago. The only contacts, occasional "gift giving" visits in which bananas and coconuts were passed by small teams of officials and scholars who remained in the surf, were years ago.

Indian ships monitor the waters around the island, trying to ensure outsiders do not go near the Sentinelese, who have repeatedly made clear they want to be left alone.

Chau went to "share the love of Jesus," said Mary Ho, international executive leader of All Nations. All Nations, a Kansas City, Missouri-based organization, helped train Chau, discussed the risks with him and sent him on the mission, to support him in his "life's calling," she added.

AP

In this October 2018 photo, American adventurer John Allen Chau, right, stands for a photograph with Founder of Ubuntu Football Academy Casey Prince, 39, in Cape Town, South Africa, days before he left for in a remote Indian island of North Sentinel Island, where he was killed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

After attack on Chinese consulate, Pakistan points to India

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—The suicide bomber that targeted the Chinese consulate in Karachi used a foreign-made C-4 plastic explosive, said Pakistani police, who suggested Saturday that the attack was orchestrated in India. Counter-terrorism officer Umar Khitab said that authorities are investigating whether Baluch separatist commander Aslam Achhu, who they believe masterminded the attack, is in India. The Baluch Liberation Army claimed the attack, and Khitab said the group is backed by "the enemy country," a reference to India. There was no immediate comment from India's External Affairs Ministry. Two other Pakistani officials said four suspects, who allegedly facilitated three attackers, were arrested in Karachi and other Sindh province towns. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media. Friday's attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi triggered an intense shootout that left all three assailants, two police officers and two civilians dead.

At least 25 dead as bus falls into canal in southern India

BANGALORE, India (AP)—At least 25 people, many of them schoolchildren, were killed when a speeding bus fell into a canal in southern India on Saturday, an official and media reports said. The accident occurred in Mandya district as the driver lost control of the vehicle while going at a high speed, said G. Parameshwaran, the Karnataka state deputy chief minister. Parameshwaran said a rescue operation was underway, with police rushing divers to the spot. The area is 105 kilometers (65 miles) southwest of Bangalore, the state capital. The Press Trust of India news agency reported that many of the dead were children who were returning from school. The victims were unable to come out of the bus, which had fallen on its side, trapping the doors on the floor of the canal, the NDTV news channel said. Around 150,000 people die every year on India's roads, often because of reckless driving, badly maintained roads and vehicles overcrowded with passengers.

6 suspected rebels, 1 soldier killed in fighting in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Six rebels and an army soldier were killed in a gunbattle in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, officials said, sparking violent protests by residents seeking an end of Indian rule over the disputed region. Indian troops laid a siege around a village in southern Shopian area early Sunday, leading to an exchange of gunfire in which six militants died, said army spokesman Col. Rajesh Kalia. An army soldier was killed and another wounded in the fighting, he said. As the fighting raged, hundreds of residents marched near the site of the gunbattle in solidarity with the rebels, triggering violent clashes with security forces. At least two people were injured when troops fired bullets, shotgun pellets and tear gas to confront the stone-throwing protesters, according to officials. Kashmir is divided between rivals India and Pakistan and both claim the territory in its entirety. Most Kashmiris support rebel demands that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country. Rebels have been fighting Indian control since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, a charge Pakistan denies.

Taiwan ruling party suffers major defeat in local elections

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's ruling party was handed a major defeat in local elections Saturday that were seen as a referendum on the administration of the island's independence-leaning president amid growing economic and political pressure from China.

Soon after the results came in, President Tsai Ing-wen resigned as head of the Democratic Progressive Party. She will remain as president and her resignation will have no direct effect on the business of government, although the results bode ill for her re-election chances in two years.

Rival China said the results reflected a desire of Taiwanese for better relations with the mainland. Ma Xiaoguang, the spokesman for Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office, said his government will continue to treat Taiwan as part of China and "resolutely oppose separatist elements advocating 'Taiwan independence' and their activities," according to the official Xinhua news agency.

In another victory for China, voters rejected a proposal to change the name of its Olympic team to Taiwan from the current Chinese Taipei. They also approved a referendum opposing same-sex marriage in a setback to LGBT couples, though ballot initiatives in Taiwan are non-binding.

The DPP lost the mayoral election to the Nationalist party in the southern port city of Kaohsiung, where it had held power for 20 years. The Nationalists also defeated the DPP in the central city of Taichung, home to much of Taiwan's light industry, while Ko Wen-je, the independent mayor of Taipei, the capital, narrowly won a second term. The Nationalist candidate in Taipei has asked for a recount.

At a brief news conference at DPP headquarters late Saturday, Tsai announced she was stepping down as DPP chair and said she had refused Premier William Lai's resignation, saying she wanted him to continue her reform agenda.

"Today, democracy taught us a lesson," Tsai said. "We must study and accept the higher expectations of the people."

The elections for mayors and thousands of local posts were seen as a key test for Tsai's 2-year-old administration, which has been under relentless attack from Beijing over her refusal to endorse its claim that Taiwan is a part of China.

Tsai and the DPP won a landslide victory in 2016, but China swiftly responded by cutting all links with her government. Beijing has been ratcheting up pressure on the island it claims as its own territory by poaching its diplomatic partners and barring its representatives from international gatherings, while staging threatening military exercises and limiting the numbers of Chinese tourists visiting Taiwan. The Nationalists, known also as the KMT, had campaigned on their pro-business image and more accommodating line toward Beijing.

Since her election, Tsai has walked a fine line on relations with China, maintaining Taiwan's de facto independent status that the vast majority of Taiwanese support, while avoiding calls from the more radical elements of her party for moves to declare formal separation from the mainland.

Taiwanese officials had warned that Beijing was seeking to sway voters through the spread of disinformation online similar to how Russia was accused of interfering in U.S. elections.

World

Syria state TV: 50 injured in rebel poison gas attack

AP
In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, a woman receives treatment at a hospital following a suspected poison gas attack on her town of al-Khalidiya, in Aleppo, Syria, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018.

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—At least 50 civilians were being treated Saturday following a suspected poison gas attack by Syrian rebel groups on the government-held Aleppo city in the country's north, according to reports in Syrian state media.

Most of those admitted to hospitals had breathing problems and blurred vision, doctors told state TV. One doctor said two were in critical condition, including a child. State TV showed footage of medical professionals treating men and women on hospital beds.

There was a stench of gas in Aleppo city after projectiles were fired, said Rami Abdurrahman, the head of Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Rebel commanders and opposition figures discredited the government reports, denying they lobbed gas into Aleppo and accusing Damascus of seeking to undermine an existing cease-fire and efforts to kickstart political talks. Earlier Saturday, government shelling of a rebel-held area in neighboring Idlib province killed at least seven civilians.

In Aleppo city, local governor Hussein Diab visited the injured at the hospital. He told state TV that 41 people had been admitted and accused rebels of using poisonous gas in the missiles they lobbed at the Aleppo neighborhood.

Health official Haj Taha later said the number of injured was up to 50, adding that symptoms suggest the gas used was chlorine. Further tests are needed, he said.

The projectiles landed in the al-Khalidiya neighborhood, and wind caused gas to spread, Aleppo police chief Essam al-Shali told state TV. State TV later said the gas affected two other areas in the city. There are no deaths, al-Shali said.

One patient said a foul smell filled the air after projectiles were lobbed.

"There are often missiles on the city but this is the first time we smelled such a smell," the patient said without giving his name.

State TV later said government troops retaliated, hitting the source of the attack. It didn't elaborate.

A cease-fire in Aleppo and Idlib has been fraying in recent days. Aleppo has come under rebel attack in recent weeks, with missiles falling inside the city. The government has responded with counter attacks on rebel-held areas in the Aleppo countryside.

Earlier Saturday, rescue works and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government shells landed in Jarjanaz, a rebel-held town in Idlib province, hitting students as they were leaving their school. The shelling killed eight, including six children, according to the civil defense team in the opposition-held area.

The opposition fighters don't have chemical weapons or the means to lab them, rebel commander Abdel-Salam Abdel-Razek said. On Twitter, he accused the government of staging the attack to frame the rebels.

Rebel spokesman Musafa Sejari said the government is seeking to undermine the cease-fire deal.

In the absence of independent monitors, it is difficult to corroborate gas attacks. But both sides of the conflict have accused each other throughout the war of using poison gas.

A joint team from the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons accused Syria's government of using chlorine gas in at least two attacks in 2014 and 2015, and the nerve agent sarin in an attack in April 2017 in the town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed about 100 people. The U.S. launched a series of strikes on Syrian government sites in retaliation for the attack in Khan Sheikhoun.

The UN-OPCW team also accused the Islamic State extremist group of using mustard gas twice in 2015 and 2016.

The government accused rebels of using gas in a 2013 attack on Khan al-Assal, a village southwest of Aleppo city, that killed 25 people.

Incoming Mexico govt: No deal to host US asylum-seekers

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's incoming government denied a report Saturday that it plans to allow asylum-seekers to wait in the country while their claims move through U.S. immigration courts, one of several options the Trump administration has been pursuing in negotiations for months.

The deal was seen as a way to dissuade thousands of Central American migrants from seeking asylum in the U.S., a process that can take years. In effect, Mexican border towns are already acting as waiting rooms for migrants hoping to start new lives in the U.S. due to bottlenecks at the border.

"There is no agreement of any sort between the incoming Mexican government and the U.S. government," future Interior Minister Olga Sanchez said in a statement.

Hours earlier, The Washington Post quoted her as saying that the incoming administration of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had agreed to allow migrants to stay in Mexico as a "short-term solution" while the U.S. considered their applications for asylum. Lopez Obrador will take office on Dec. 1.

The statement shared with The Associated Press said the future government's principal concern related to the migrants is their well-being while in Mexico.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has won support from the Mexican president-elect's team for a plan dubbed "Remain in Mexico."

The newspaper also quoted Sanchez as saying: "For now, we have agreed to this policy of Remain in Mexico."

Sanchez did not explain in the statement why The Washington Post had quoted her as saying there had been agreement.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said, "President Trump has developed a strong relationship with the incoming (Lopez) Obrador Administration, and we look forward to working with them on a wide range of issues."

Stephanie Leutert, director of the Mexico Security Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin, described the Remain in Mexico plan as a strategy to take away the ability of migrants to live and work in the U.S. while cases are processed. "The hope is that asylum seekers will not want to live in (Mexico) for months/years and won't come," Leutert said via Twitter.

U.S. officials have said for months that they were working with Mexico to find solutions for what they have called a border crisis. One variation, called "Safe Third," would have denied asylum claims on the grounds that asylum seekers had found haven in Mexico. President Enrique Pena Nieto offered thousands of Central Americans asylum on Oct. 26 if they agreed to remain in southern Mexico. Close to 3,000 migrants took Mexico up on the offer.

Sanchez said Saturday that the next government does not plan for Mexico to become a "Safe Third" country.

Approximately 5,000 Central American migrants have arrived in recent days to Tijuana, just south of California, after making their way through Mexico via caravan. But agents at the San Diego port of entry process fewer than 100 claims per day.

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum on Friday declared a humanitarian crisis in his border city of 1.6 million, which he says is struggling to accommodate the influx. Most of the migrants are camped inside a sports complex, where they face long wait times for food and bathrooms. Hundreds of Tijuana residents have protested their arrival, complaining that recent caravans forced their way into Mexico from Guatemala.

Trump threatened Thursday to shut down the border crossing entirely if his administration determines that Mexico has lost "control" of the situation in Tijuana.

Julieta Vences, a congresswoman with Lopez Obrador's Morena party who is also president of Mexico's congressional migrant affairs commission, told the AP that incoming Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard has been discussing with U.S. officials how to handle a deluge of asylum claims at the border.

"They're going to have to open the borders (for the migrants) to put in the request," Vences said. "They will also give us dates, on what terms they will receive the (asylum) requests and in the case that they are not beneficiaries of this status, they will have to return here," Vences said.

She said Mexico needs to examine how to accommodate the migrants without angering locals.

"When they come back, we need to see how ... we can integrate them into an economic activity so that they can develop and not generate conflict with our own communities."

Local churches and charities have been feeding the migrants, with assistance from state and federal agencies. They have also distributed thousands of blankets, thin mattresses and personal hygiene kits.

With a smirk, official says Russia will verify moon landings

MOSCOW (AP)—The head of Russia's Roscosmos space agency has said that a proposed Russian mission to the moon will be tasked with verifying that the American moon landings were real, though he appeared to be making a joke.

"We have set this objective to fly and verify whether they've been there or not," said Dmitry Rogozin in a video posted Saturday on Twitter.

Rogozin was responding to a question about whether or not NASA actually landed on the moon nearly 50 years ago. He appeared to be joking, as he smirked and shrugged while answering. But conspiracies surrounding NASA's moon missions are common in Russia.

The Soviet Union abandoned its lunar program in the mid-1970s after four experimental moon rockets exploded.

Health & Wellness

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MORE THAN CRUNCHES:

7 tips to keep your brain as sharp as your body

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

When it comes to our hearts, even the non-medical types among us pretty much know what we need to be doing. In a nutshell: exercising and eating right.

But when it comes to our brains, guidelines tend to be foggier. Besides, we figure, since we're probably as smart as we'll ever be, what can we possibly do?

Plenty, but let's start with this reminder: Just because right this second you can't remember the name of your first-grade teacher, that doesn't mean your smarts are on the wane. Not by a long shot.

"Science is showing for the first time in 30 years that our brain is the most modifiable part of our body and easiest to strengthen, more than our heart or teeth," says Sandra Bond Chapman, founder and chief director of the Center for BrainHealth at the University of Texas at Dallas. The center opened a new facility in October: The Brain Performance Institute, which offers scientifically based programs to enhance brain performance and health.

Although Alzheimer's now tops heart disease and cancer when it comes to our fear factor about diseases, Chapman says, strengthening your brain is more than decreasing the chance of developing dementia. Instead, it's about increasing brain health, two words not often thought of in the same breath when Chapman started her center in 1999.

But let's change that, shall we? Here are tips from Chapman and other experts:

Exercise.

This isn't completely surprising. What, after all, isn't made better by exercise? Research about the connection between exercise and brain health was the topic of a recent symposium sponsored by the Cooper Institute and the Center for BrainHealth.

Fitness has been linked to a healthier brain in a study by UT Southwestern's O'Donnell Brain Institute and the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine at Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas.

"We think if you have a good cardiovascular fitness level, your heart is stronger and blood supply healthier, and you have a better chance to get enough blood supply for the brain," says Dr. Kan Ding, a neurologist with the Brain Institute and lead author of the study. "That's very important for brain health, because the brain is a very unique organ. All the energy it needs is from blood from the rest of the body, so blood supply is very important for the brain."

The study examined the fitness levels of people who had a high risk for developing dementia by having them walk on a treadmill. Then they underwent a special MRI sequence called diffusion tensor imaging, "which is able to show us all the white matter in your brain," she says, "and how the neurons connect to each other."

The result: "The higher your fitness level, the better the highway system in your brain. Those with the better highway system did better on our cognitive performance test, on brain games to test how fast you respond to a question, or how many words you can remember."

This study "shows exercise is a promising way to prevent or slow cognitive decline in that population." It's the first study, she says, to show that exercise does more than make you feel good; it shows the structural impact of exercise.

Aim for 30 minutes most days, which is what Ding says is now her goal as a result of her research. "Start building it into your daily or weekly routine. At the beginning it is hard. You have to make a target and say, 'That's my goal for this week, for this month, for this year.' It is a big commitment, if you think about it. I hope I convinced you today."

Take five.

In this 24/7 world, there is always something with which to clog or entertain our brain. But, Chapman says, "our brain loves to be reset. Five-by-five is what we call it. Take five minutes five times a day to let your brain stop. It could be a walk around where you are inside, or go outside. Let your engine reset."

Stop multi-tasking.

Ah, how tempting it is to be talking on the phone while surfing online while cooking dinner. But that is making our brain networks "more frayed," Chapman says. "Brain efficiency breaks down. We're making an older brain out of a younger brain."

The paradox, she says, is that people tend to think, "I'm doing three things at once, so I must be more efficient." However, she says, "When you try to do three things at once, there are more errors, they take longer to do and they're more shallow."

So instead of taking pride in pushing yourself to do two or three things at once—which stresses out the brain and can lead to depression, she says—focus on single-tasking. "Doing one thing for a concerted period of time will strengthen the brain and increase energy tremendously."

Up your fruit and vegetable intake.

"The way we eat affects our energy; it affects our glucose," Chapman says. "Our brain is a greedy animal. If we're eating foods that require a lot of digestive juices, that takes away from our brain. What's good for your heart is good for your brain."

Sarah Lock, executive director of AARP's Global Council on Brain Health, recommends five types of food we all need to be eating on a

regular basis to keep our brains in tip-top shape:

- Berries (whole, not juice)
- Fresh vegetables (bring on the greens)
- Healthy fats (think olive oil)
- Nuts (they're high-calorie, too, so limit your intake)
- Fish and seafood

Practice innovative thinking.

"Our brain is wired to see things in new ways and to be figuring out things," Chapman says. So while memorization is fine, "the brain gets jaded the more things we do on rote. Innovative thinking in our world that's always changing helps keep mental independence. Our brain is

built to do this until the day we die."

A few tips: Thank someone using different words. Think of a different way to formulate a subject line or the contents of an email. "What's a way to reframe a conversation with a family member," she asks, "to see things from a broader perspective?"

Take a technology timeout.

"Take a respite. You'll see a quick rebound and guess what? You haven't missed that much," Chapman says. "If we were to take away technology from meetings, we could end them in 20 minutes. People say, 'You don't understand. Clients expect me to respond right away.' I say, 'No. They're paying for your brain.' "

Believe in your brain.

Our brain system starts slowing down as early as our 40s, Chapman says, "but only because we let it." True, some people will develop Alzheimer's, especially because the population is aging. But, she adds, "on average, 87 percent of people won't." And if we're genetically prone to Alzheimer's but have taken care of our brains, we'll have reserve to maybe push back the symptoms by, perhaps three to five years, she says.

"Healthy lifestyle factors can mitigate the onset, but we don't necessarily know exactly how long," she says. Even without that knowledge though, "Why wouldn't we build brain reserve? We save for investment retirement.

"The way we're going to solve all the world's issues is our brainpower. For economic and emotional well-being, it's all in our heads."

Life & Style

Italy livid about deal to loan Leonardo works to Louvre

ROME (AP)—So versatile were Leonardo da Vinci's talents in art and science and so boundless his visionary imagination, he is known to the world as the universal genius.

But not to Italy's nationalist-tilting government, which is livid about plans by the Louvre museum in Paris for a blockbuster exhibit next year with as many as possible Leonardo masterpieces loaned from Italian museums to mark the 500th anniversary of the Renaissance artist's death.

"It's unfair, a mistaken deal," Italian Culture Ministry Undersecretary Lucia Borgonzoni said of a 2017 agreement between a previous government and the Louvre. "Leonardo is an Italian genius," she told The Associated Press this week.

Borgonzoni is a senator from the League, the "Italians-first" sovereignty-championing party in the nearly six-month-old populist government.

She was elaborating on comments earlier this month, in Italian daily Corriere della Sera, in which she said of Leonardo: "In France, all he did was die."

Leonardo was born in 1452 in the Tuscan town of Vinci, Italy, and died in Amboise, France, in 1519.

Borgonzoni criticized how as part of the 2017 arrangement, Italy also pledged to program its own exhibits so they won't compete with the Louvre mega-show.

The Louvre declined to comment on Italy's objections, nor say which artworks it requested from Italy, noting it's nearly a year before the four-months-long exhibit opens on Oct. 24, 2019.

Exhibit curator, Vincent Delieuvin, part of the Louvre's staff, also serves on the Italian Culture Ministry's committee which evaluated proposals from museums worldwide for the celebrations. He didn't reply to an emailed request for comment.

"While respecting the autonomy of museums, national interests can't be put in second place," Borgonzoni told Corriere. "The French can't have everything."

Leaning Tower of Pisa continues long path toward vertical

A view of the Leaning Tower of Pisa (Torre di Pisa) in Piazza dei Miracoli Square, in Pisa, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2012. AP

ROME (AP)—The Leaning Tower of Pisa isn't leaning so much anymore.

After more than two decades of efforts to straighten it, engineers say the famed Tuscan bell tower has recovered four centimeters (1.57 inches) more and is in better structural health than predicted.

ANSA news agency quotes a consultant to the international committee monitoring the tilt, Nunziante Squeglia, as saying that while the progressive recovery of tilt is good news, the overall structural health of the tower is more important.

The 12th-century tower reopened to the public in 2001 after being closed for more than a decade to let workers reduce its slant. By using hundreds of tons of lead counterweights at the base and extracting soil from under the foundations, engineers initially shaved 17 inches off the lean.

Time for France to give back looted African art, experts say

PARIS (AP)—African artworks held in French museums—richly carved thrones, doors to a royal kingdom, wooden statues imbued with spiritual meaning—may be heading back home to Africa at last.

French President Emmanuel Macron, trying to turn the page on France's colonial past , received a report Friday on returning art looted from African lands.

From Senegal to Ethiopia, artists, governments and museums eagerly awaited the report by French art historian Benedicte Savoy and Senegalese economist Felwine Sarr, and commissioned by Macron himself.

It recommends that French museums give back works that were taken without consent, if African countries request them—and could increase pressure on museums elsewhere in Europe to follow suit.

The experts estimate that up to 90 percent of African art is outside the continent, including statues, thrones and manuscripts. Thousands of works are held by just one museum, the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, opened in 2006 to showcase non-European art—much of it from former French colonies. The museum wouldn't immediately comment on the report.

Among disputed treasures in the Quai Branly are several works from the Dahomey kingdom, in today's West African country of Benin: the metal-and-wood throne of 19th-century King Ghezo, the doors to the palace of Kign Gele, and imposing, wooden statues.

The head of Ethiopia's Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Yonas Desta, said the report shows "a new era of thought" in Europe's relations with Africa.

Senegal's culture minister, Abdou Latif Coulibaly, told The Associated Press: "It's entirely logical that Africans should get back their artworks. ... These works were taken in conditions that were perhaps legitimate at the time, but illegitimate today."

The report is just a first step. Challenges ahead include enforcing the report's recommendations, especially if museums resist, and determining how objects were obtained and whom to give them to.

The report is part of broader promises by Macron to turn the page on France's troubled relationship with Africa. In a groundbreaking meeting with students in Burkina Faso last year, Macron stressed the "undeniable crimes of European colonization" and said he wants pieces of African cultural heritage to return to Africa "temporarily or definitively."

"I cannot accept that a large part of African heritage is in France," he said at the time.

The French report could have broader repercussions. In Cameroon, professor Verkijika Fanso, historian at the University of Yaounde One, said: "France is feeling the heat of what others will face. Let their decision to bring back what is ours motivate others."

Germany has worked to return art seized by the Nazis, and in May the organization that coordinates that effort, the German Lost Art Foundation, said it was starting a program to research the provenance of cultural objects collected during the country's colonial past.

Britain is also under pressure to return art taken from its former colonies. In recent months, Ethiopian officials have increased efforts to secure the return of looted artifacts and manuscripts from museums, personal collections and government institutions across Britain, including valuable items taken in the 1860s after battles in northern Ethiopia, Yonas said.

With child coming, it's off to the suburbs for Harry, Meghan

LONDON (AP)—Like many a couple before them, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan are moving to the suburbs ahead of the anticipated birth of their first child.

Officials said Saturday that Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will move from Kensington Palace in central London to Frogmore Cottage, a house on the grounds of Windsor Estate, early next year.

The couple, who married in a chapel on the Windsor Castle grounds in May, is expecting their first child in the spring. Windsor is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of central London.

The palace statement said that "Windsor is a very special place for their royal highnesses and they are grateful that their official residence will be on the estate."

Windsor Castle is one of Queen Elizabeth II's favorite homes. It is surrounded by horse country where she used to ride frequently in her younger days, and she is known to prefer the castle and its environs to Buckingham Palace, her more formal official residence in central London.

Harry and Meghan have been living at Nottingham Cottage on the grounds of Kensington Palace since announcing their engagement last year. They will keep their office at Kensington Palace, which is also home to Prince William and his wife Kate.

Frogmore Cottage is a two-story, stucco-covered house on the Windsor Estate. It is near Frogmore House, the grand 17th century manor house where Meghan and Harry held their evening wedding reception for 200 friends after their nuptials earlier in the day.

The cottage and house were called Frogmore because of the many frogs that resided in the marshy area near the River Thames.

The move means that William and Harry will no longer be living in close proximity to each other now that Harry is starting his own family. William and Kate have three children.

A look at the books which have inspired literary classics

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

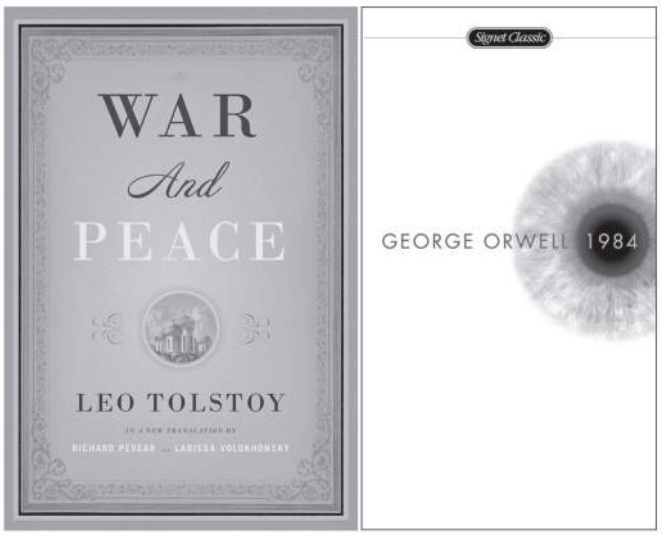
NEW YORK (AP)—Behind every great book are the books which influenced it.

The "micro-learning" app and platform blinkist.com has been compiling literary sources for such classics as "A Clockwork Orange," ''Oliver Twist" and "1984." Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" was inspired by each of her parents—William Godwin's "An Enquiry Concerning Political Justice" and Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Women."

One of the defining novels of the Civil War era, Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," drew in part upon one of the defining memoirs, "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave." Douglass' book, which remains standard reading in many schools, also was cited by Toni Morrison for her Pulitzer Prize winning historical novel "Beloved."

"We were noticing the attention around the 200th anniversary of 'Frankenstein' and got to thinking about the nonfiction works which help author of fiction," says Blinkist writer-editor Tom Anderson. "We think of those books as the unsung heroes."

Charles Dickens' portrait of extreme wealth and poverty in London in "Oliver Twist" was in part modeled on Edward Gibbon's "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." Anthony Burgess drew upon fiction and nonfiction for his terrifying "A Clockwork Orange," his sources including Aldous Huxley's futuristic classic "Brave New World" and B.F. Skinner's landmark of psychology "Science and Human Behavior."



AP
This combination photo shows covers of classic books, "War And Peace," by Leo Tolstoy, left, and George Orwell's "1984."

Tolstoy's "War and Peace" reflected the author's reading of the philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer, along with works about Napoleon and French history. According to Tolstoy scholar Ani Kokobobo, the author was "captivated" by Schopenhauer and his belief that "death is the only reality," a viewpoint expressed by the cerebral Prince Andrei Nikolayevich Bolkonsky in "War and Peace." Kokobobo also noted that "War and Peace" was a response in part to such French scholarship as Adolphe Thiers' "History of the Consulate and the Empire of France Under Napoleon," which Tolstoy believed exaggerated Napoleon's stature and military ideas.

"Tolstoy did not believe in this 'great man' theory, also propagated by Thomas Carlyle, and thought that victory and defeat were not determined by a sole heroic leader, but rather by the collective alignment of the will of thousands," said Kokobobo, editor of the Tolstoy Studies Journal.

George Orwell's 1984, the Dystopian political novel which has become a best-seller again during the Trump administration, reflects in part the British author's reading of two nonfiction studies: James Burnham's "The Managerial Revolution" and Halford Mackinder's "Democratic Ideals and Reality: A Study in the Politics of Reconstruction."

In a recent telephone interview, Orwell's son, Richard Blair, said his father was "the most voracious reader" who "absorbed enormous amounts of books." Orwell Society committee member Les Hurst said that "1984" shows how Orwell adapted the ideas of others to his own. He noted a passage from the Mackinder book, which came out just after World War I: "Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island; who rules the World-Island commands the world." Orwell borrowed Mackinder's framing for one of the most famous epigrams from "1984": "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tennis great Billie Jean King feted for 75th birthday

NEW YORK (AP) — Billie Jean King is celebrating her 75th birthday, which lands on Thanksgiving this year. The tennis great recently hosted a birthday party at the New-York Historical Society that included New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and video tributes from former President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Kraft noted King's social justice work, including her influence on the passage of Title IX. The 1972 federal law opened doors for girls and women by banning sex discrimination in educational and sports programs. Nona Hendryx, Cyndi Lauper and Sara Bareilles performed, along with the Girls Prep Choir from the Bronx. Emma Stone and Alan Cumming serenaded King with a tune from "Cabaret." Tony Bennett, Jeanie Buss, Holly Hunter, Maria Sharapova and John McEnroe also attended the event, and the museum is running a photo exhibit marking her birthday. King won 39 Grand Slam titles and received a 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

19-year-old Yorkshire Terrier retires from 'The Nutcracker'

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — After more than 125 performances in "The Nutcracker" in Rhode Island, a 19-year-old Yorkshire terrier named Archie is leaving the stage. Festival Ballet Providence announced this week that its beloved "Nutcracker" dog is retiring. The ballet says Archie achieved stardom in his annual romp across the Providence Performing Arts Center stage and is ready for the next chapter. Misha Djuric (JUHR'-itch), the ballet's artistic director and Archie's owner, says Archie is "settling down to a life of luxury and long naps on pillows." The ballet is holding auditions for the next "Nutcracker" dog. Auditions will take place at the Festival Ballet Providence studios on Hope Street in Providence on Dec. 2. The ballet says it's looking for a pup with an elegant prance, regal coat of fur and charming smile.

White House deputy chief receiving millions from Fox

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications Bill Shine has received millions of dollars in severance from Fox News Channel's parent company and is owed millions more, a new financial disclosure report shows. The report released Friday shows that Shine received $8.4 million in severance pay from 21st Century Fox after he left in May 2017. He'll also receive bonus and options payments in 2018 and 2019 amounting to $7 million for the two years combined. The agreement is set to expire May 1, 2019. Shine joined the Trump administration earlier this year. He resigned his position as co-president of Fox News amid questions over his handling of sexual harassment and discrimination allegations that led to the departures of CEO Roger Ailes and Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly. He has worked behind the scenes to improve the production quality of events at the White House, such as Trump's announcement of his second Supreme Court nominee. Trump and Fox News have had a symbiotic relationship since Trump first announced his candidacy, with the cable news channel providing often fawning coverage of the president, and the president appearing frequently on Fox shows, including his favorites "Fox & Friends" and "Hannity."

Queen of Soul's Detroit mansion sells for $300,000

DETROIT (AP) — A historic Detroit mansion owned by late singing legend Aretha Franklin has been sold. The Detroit News reports that, according to public records, the 5,600-square-foot (520-square-meter) brick home adjacent to the Detroit Golf Club fetched $300,000 in a sale last month. It was built in 1927. The newspaper reports Franklin bought the home in 1993, but nearly lost it in 2008 due to unpaid property taxes. Franklin estate personal representative Sabrina Garrett-Owens says "there are no other Detroit properties" that were owned by the Queen of Soul. Her 4,148-square-foot (385-square-meter) Colonial-style house in suburban Detroit's Bloomfield Township still is listed for $800,000. Franklin died of pancreatic cancer in August in her Detroit riverfront apartment. She was 76.

First international business trip raises culture questions

DEAR ABBY: I'm worried for my son. He's going on his first business trip in January—to Japan. He doesn't drink alcohol. (He's not an alcoholic; it's his personal choice.) His bosses, who do business there frequently, are now telling him that the Japanese will not do business with you unless you drink with them first. Can you find out if this is true? And if it is, what can, or should, my son do?

WORRIED MOM

DEAR WORRIED: Although alcohol can be a part of an important bonding ritual across East Asia, your son may be able to forge successful business relationships in other ways. According to Erin Meyer, a professor at the international graduate business school INSEAD and author of "The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business": "If you don't drink, you can certainly find other ways to partake in the fun; in Japan, a round of karaoke or a trip to the spa can do wonders." Because your son is involved in international business, he may find professor Meyer's book, which was published in 2014, will give him valuable insight.

DEAR ABBY: I have some concerns about my marriage. My husband is a retired U.S. veteran. He was married before we got together, and his former spouse receives his survivor benefits. This was something that was decided during their divorce. I am not entitled to anything.

I have been a loving wife and have taken care of him for the 14 years we have been married. He has one daughter who is 40-plus years old. I just found out that I am not his beneficiary on anything—she is! This has me very worried. Please let me know what I need to do about this situation.

LOVING WIFE IN THE SOUTH

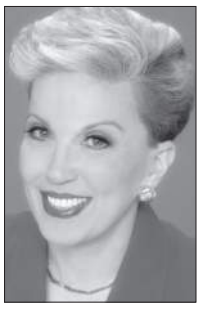
DEAR LOVING WIFE: What you need to do is discuss this with your husband to see if he will modify his will, which may have been drafted before he married you. Then the two of you should talk to an attorney, preferably one who specializes in wills and trusts. If your husband is not willing to make an adjustment, then consult an attorney on your own because, as it stands, your husband's estate plan is not fair to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a large family. As the grandchildren are now adults with significant others, it's getting beyond my financial means to buy a Christmas gift for everyone -- something I have always done. I now have a brand-new great-grandchild. What do other grandparents do at holidays about gifts?

AT MY LIMIT IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

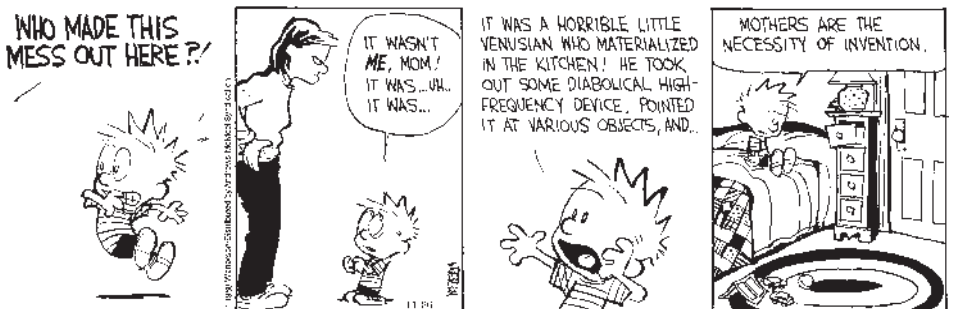
DEAR LIMIT: Some grandparents set an age limit after which gifts cease. Some families have a "pool" from which names are drawn so each family member buys only one gift per family. And other grandparents tell their children and adult grandchildren the truth—explaining that because they can no longer afford to buy gifts, from now on they'll be exchanging Christmas card greetings only.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHO MADE THIS MESS OUT HERE?!
IT WASN'T ME, MOM! IT WAS...UH.. IT WAS...
IT WAS A HORRIBLE LITTLE VENUSIAN WHO MATERIALIZED IN THE KITCHEN! HE TOOK OUT SOME DIABOLICAL HIGH-FREQUENCY DEVICE, POINTED IT AT VARIOUS OBJECTS, AND..
MOTHERS ARE THE NECESSITY OF INVENTION.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

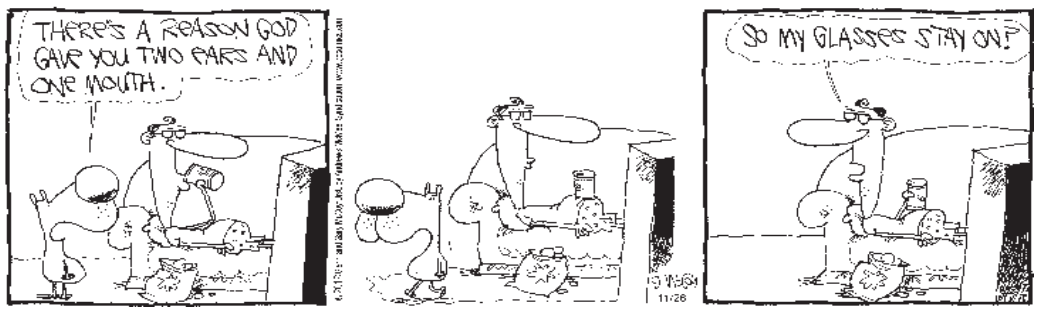
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH BOY! OH BOY! LAPTOP DAY!
MY NEW LAPTOP ARRIVED! THIS THING HAS EVERYTHING!
THIS LITTLE BABY'S GONNA HELP ME WRITE A BEST-SELLER.
SO, IT HAS A TINY BEST-SELLING AUTHOR INSIDE IT?
NO SNARK. NOT ON LAPTOP DAY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Napkin's place
4 Lass
7 Sense
11 Concerning
13 Parisian pal
14 Desire
15 Sir's counterpart
16 Solidify
17 Boxer Spinks
18 Cairo's nation
20 Go yachting
22 Pinnacle
24 Pastry hybrid
28 The "sun" in "sunny side up"
32 Earlier, in verse
33 Blood vessel
34 Feminine principle
36 Intimate
37 Draw a conclusion
39 Regret
41 Spills the beans
43 Granola grain
44 Go sightseeing
46 Declines
50 Ballet leap
53 Blend
55 Tiny bit
56 Dread
57 Journalist Nellie
58 Trenches
59 Beer barrels
60 "— who?"
61 "Unh-unh"

DOWN
1 Margarita garnish
2 Scrambled wd.
3 Use a rosary
4 Joke
5 Iowa city
6 Pale purple
7 Like a blowhard
8 Before
9 Conceit
10 Cariou of Broadway
12 Parents whose kids have flown the coop
19 Overly
21 Roth svgs. plan
23 Layer
25 Pinot —
26 Grecian vessels
27 Head, to Henri
28 Satan's forte
29 Hereditary unit
30 Present
31 White wine cocktail
35 Ultra-modernist
38 Aussie hopper
40 Gullet
42 Desensitizes
45 Anger
47 Subject, usually
48 Jazz singer James
49 Merit badge holder
50 NYC airport
51 Shoe width
52 Label
54 Alphabet end

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	O	D	A	S		S	O	B		M	A	D
C	R	E	P	E		A	W	E		I	⁼	I
S	T	E	A	D		N	E	⁻	F	L	I	X
		P	R	A	T	E	S		E	E	R	O
H	A	S		N	O	S		E	S	S	E	N
S	L	I	P		A	⁻	O	M	S			
I	A	X	I	E	D		C	O	U	P	L	E
			T	V	S	F	⁻		P	H	I	.
C	O	K	I	E		L	E	A		O	E	D
C	P	I	C		L	I	⁻	⁻	L	E		
H	E	N	D	R	I	X		B	A	N	A	L
A	D	D		U	Z	I		A	M	I	G	O
N	S	A		E	A	R		⁻	E	X	A	N

Last Friday's Answer 11-26

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			
59				■	60					61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 45; Garcelle Beauvais, 52; Tina Turner, 79; Rich Little, 80.

Happy Birthday: Live life in the moment. Expand your mind, awareness and possibilities, but don't let temptation be your downfall. Living within your means and sticking to a plan will be necessary if you don't want to be taken advantage of by someone eager to prey on your benevolent nature. You can have fun and be moderate at the same time. Your numbers are 4, 13, 17, 28, 31, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An impulsive decision should be avoided. Emotions will get in your way, causing you to ignore crucial facts when it comes to joint finances, contracts or matters concerning youngsters or parents. Go over details carefully, and make choices based on facts. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Set your objective for the day; don't stop until you finish. Don't let the changes someone makes disrupt your plans or lead to a stalemate. Do your own thing and make personal changes that will promote better health and diet choices. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep an open mind, but don't rely on someone to give you factual information. An argument is likely to break out if you are too trusting or you or someone you are dealing with aren't honest about feelings. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotions will surface if someone is insensitive to what you want or what you do. Make plans that you can do alone if necessary. Don't count on someone else for support or backup. Use your imagination and do something creative. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Speak up and put your plans in motion. Being forthright will deter others from getting in your way or trying to change your mind. Altering how you do your job or your living arrangements is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do something constructive. Don't let personal incidents or situations slow you down or hinder your productivity. Set your sights on your goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with your performance. Attending a networking event will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* If you want to make a personal change, discuss your intentions with whoever will be affected by the choice you make. An older friend or relative shouldn't be allowed to put demands on you. Only do what's fair. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A peer will be revealing. A business meeting or trip will help you decipher how to move forward. A change to how or where you live looks positive. If you want something, take the initiative and go after it. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Craving change is one thing; doing something about it is another. Don't let someone manipulate you by enticing you to get involved in something that is overpriced or falsely advertised. Focus on health, awareness and doing something special with someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Trust in yourself, not what your peers tell you. You will be misinformed about an opportunity or position that opens up. Take care of personal matters yourself, and nurture important partnerships. Don't let someone's impulsiveness become a problem for you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Have more faith in yourself and what you are capable of doing. Dealing with someone's estate or personal affairs will change the way you feel about clutter and the way you live. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Arguments are best avoided. You aren't likely to agree with a peer, close friend or relative. It's OK to have different opinions. Offer the same freedom and respect you want to receive to avoid a standoff. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, intellectual and assertive. You are imaginative and extravagant.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		6			4		
		3	8	4		5		
	8	4		3		7	1	
			7		6		8	2
8	2	6			5	4	5	
7			4		5			
	6	2		7		3	9	
		1		9	4	2		
	5				3		7	

Difficulty Level ★ 11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	3	9	1	6	8	4	2	7
8	4	2	5	7	9	3	6	1
7	6	1	4	2	3	8	9	5
1	2	3	8	9	4	7	5	6
6	8	5	7	1	2	9	3	4
9	7	4	6	3	5	2	1	8
3	1	8	9	5	7	6	4	2
4	9	6	2	8	1	5	7	3
2	5	7	3	4	6	1	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

YOUR ECCRINE GLANDS **Solution: 12 letters**

I	N	S	U	L	A	T	E	N	I	R	C	C	E	I
E	L	I	N	I	N	G	S	M	L	A	P	C	M	P
D	L	M	E	G	L	A	N	D	S	Y	Y	M	Y	Y
I	A	R	F	L	U	I	D	R	R	T	U	M	T	D
R	I	E	T	U	L	I	D	U	O	N	O	E	S	O
O	B	D	T	C	U	D	V	K	O	T	I	W	S	B
L	O	M	S	O	P	A	I	G	A	X	E	I	R	A
H	R	E	R	S	T	N	L	N	N	A	M	U	H	W
C	C	R	E	E	E	O	A	A	T	I	O	N	S	A
M	I	O	Y	S	B	R	C	C	E	L	L	S	T	T
U	M	C	A	U	A	C	T	I	V	E	P	O	R	E
I	I	R	L	P	O	T	A	S	S	I	U	M	O	R
D	T	I	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	L	Y	T	E	C
O	N	N	C	O	I	L	E	D	E	R	M	A	L	I
S	A	E	T	A	N	O	B	R	A	C	I	B	O	N

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Active, Anatomy, Antimicrobial, Anxiety, Bicarbonate, Body, Cells, Chloride, Coiled, Cooling, Cytokines, Dermal, Dermis, Dilute, Duct, Eccrine, Electrolyte, Fluid, Glands, Glucose, Human, Immunoglobulins, Insulate, Ions, Lactate, Layers, Lining, Merocrine, Palms, Pore, Potassium, Pyruvate, Sodium, Stress, Sweat, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Ultrasound

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(In-House Annoucement)

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NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
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All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

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For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/6866 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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HISTORY

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Thompson's putback lifts Warriors past Kings

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Klay Thompson will be thrilled with the winning shot any way it comes.

Kevin Durant will gladly accept that a jump ball he tipped away against Willie Cauley-Stein in the waning moments meant nearly as much as all those jumpers and free throws he hit in a sensational scoring performance.

Thompson put back his own miss with 5 seconds left, Durant scored a season-high 44 points, and the Golden State Warriors barely held off the Sacramento Kings 117-116 on Saturday night in a wild finish between the Northern California neighbors.

"I don't know if I got fouled, but who cares I got the putback," Thompson said. "You'll take a game-winner any way you can get it I don't care how ugly it is."

Durant tipped a jump ball to the backcourt just before the buzzer sounded, but a replay review was held to determine whether the Kings had called timeout—which was granted with 0.3 seconds on the clock.

The Warriors subsequently called their own, and the Kings failed to get a shot.

"I just tried to tip it as far away from their basket as possible," Durant said.

Durant converted two free throws with 1:27 left and also had 13 rebounds and seven assists, while Thompson wound up with 31 points—the second straight night the two each scored 30 or more.

Buddy Hield had 28 points on 12-for-21 shooting and seven rebounds. Rookie Marvin Bagley III contributed 20 points and a season-best 17 rebounds off the bench, but missed the first of two free throws with 1:08 remaining.

"That was a very good basketball game to watch, to be a part of. I thought we competed our tails off," Kings coach Dave Joerger said.

Thompson shot 12 of 26 with five 3-pointers as Splash Brother Stephen Curry missed his ninth straight game because of a strained left groin . Fellow All-Star Draymond Green is still nursing a sprained right toe.

Durant's 3-pointer with 6:22 left got Golden State within 108-105, then he converted a tying three-point play the next time down before Quinn Cook's go-ahead 3 the following possession.

Durant had 16 in the second quarter, making all eight of his free throws. He finished with a season-high 16 free throws on 17 attempts. The two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP also committed seven of the Warriors' 14 turnovers.

Damian Jones added 13 points and six rebounds in a stronger effort from the center position in Golden State's fifth back-to-back, when the Warriors went just 10 of 34 from beyond the arc.

"He was a monster out there," Thompson said.

The Warriors snapped a four-game losing streak, their longest under Steve Kerr and worst since early 2013, a night earlier against Portland.

Kerr stuck with the same starting lineup from that 125-97 win but the Warriors trailed by 10 late in the second before closing the half on an 8-2 run to get within 64-60 at intermission.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, right, drives the ball past Sacramento Kings' Justin Jackson (25) during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

Curry may return for Warriors in next road trip

The Golden State Warriors won't be without Stephen Curry much longer. Curry was re-evaluated by the team's medical staff Saturday, and it sounds like he might return to action on the Warriors' next road trip.

The team said the 30-year-old Curry is making "very good progress" in his return from a groin injury.

The key line in the statement reads: "It is expected Curry will begin to practice with the team next week, with the goal of playing at some point during the team's upcoming five-game road trip."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr expressed optimism about that timeline.

Curry has missed the last eight games due to the injury. In his absence, the team has gone 3-5. The Warriors are 13-7 on the season.

While he's been sidelined, Curry was involved in a minor car accident. No one, including Curry, was injured.

The Warriors played Sacramento Kings on Saturday and the Orlando Magic on Monday. The team will then begin its next road trip Thursday.

In 12 games, Curry is averaging 29.5 points and 6.1 assists per game for the Warriors.

Curry was involved in a car accident Friday. Everyone involved in the accident, including Curry, appears to be OK.

Curry was hit by two cars on Highway 24 in California, according to ABC 7.

The crash happened around 9 a.m. Friday morning. Weather is believed to have caused the accident. Curry was able to report to the Warriors following the crash.

The Kings had won their previous two matchups at Oracle Arena, last season becoming just the third team over the past five seasons to win twice on Golden State's home floor.

Bucks 135, Spurs 129

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 18 rebounds, rallying Milwaukee from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat San Antonio.

Antetokounmpo scored 14 points in the final period, hearing chants of "MVP! MVP!" each time he stepped to the free throw line. But he had plenty of help, with Malcolm Brogdon adding 23 points, Khris Middleton 21 and Eric Bledsoe finishing with 20 points and 10 assists.

DeMar DeRozan scored 34 points for the Spurs, who took a 106-95 lead with 11 minutes to play after a jumper by Rudy Gay.

But the Bucks roared back in a game featuring 26 lead changes, taking it for the final time when Antetokounmpo hit a pair of free throws with 2:44 left that made it 123-122.

Mavericks 113, Celtics 104

In Dallas, J.J. Barea scored 20 points with a key 3-pointer that helped put Dallas in control in the fourth quarter, and the Mavericks won their sixth straight home game.

Harrison Barnes also had 20 points, teenage rookie Luka Doncic totaled 15 points and matched Barea with eight assists while starting at point guard with Dennis Smith Jr. sidelined by a wrist injury as the Mavericks (9-9) got back to .500 with their seventh win in nine games.

It's the latest Dallas has been .500 or better since the end of the 2015-16 season, and it's the first six-game home winning streak for the Mavericks in almost two years.

Jayson Tatum scored 21 points and Kyrie Irving and Marcus Smart had 19 apiece for the Celtics, who followed a win with a loss in a back-to-back for the third straight time this season a night after winning in Atlanta.

Cavaliers 117, Rockets 108

In Cleveland, Rookie Collin Sexton scored a season-high 29 points and Cleveland overcame 40 points by Houston's James Harden to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Sexton, taken with the eighth pick in the draft, was 14 for 21 from the floor and hit several key baskets in the second half as the Cavaliers held off multiple runs from the Rockets.

Cleveland (4-14) won 121-112 in Philadelphia on Friday and rode that momentum against the Rockets, who played without star point guard Chris Paul.

Harden, playing the entire second half, was 14 for 30 from the floor with 13 assists. The reigning MVP scored 24 points in the first half, including 15 for the second straight night in the first quarter. Harden has scored at least 30 points in four consecutive games.

Nuggets 105, Thunder 98

In Oklahoma City, Jamal Murray scored 22 points to help Denver beat Oklahoma City.

Nikola Jokic and Trey Lyles each scored 16 points and Juancho Hernangomez added 15 for the Nuggets, who won their third straight.

Russell Westbrook had 16 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season and the 106th of his career. Paul George had 24 points and 11 rebounds and Dennis Schroder added 18 points for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City shot just 35.9 percent from the field and was just 9 of 39 on 3-pointers. The Thunder would have had sole possession of the best record in the Western Conference with a win.

Wizards 124, Pelicans 114

In Washington, Otto Porter Jr. scored a season-high 29 points, John Wall had 22 points and eight assists, and Washington beat New Orleans.

Austin Rivers had 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter for the Wizards, who shot a season-high 56.7 percent (51 of 90) from the floor in a game between the league's second- and third-worst defenses entering Saturday.

Bradley Beal also finished with 18, one of six Wizards to score in double figures on a night the Pelicans were without injured All-Star forward Anthony Davis.

Julius Randle tied a season high with 29 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. He started in place of Davis, who was ruled out during pregame warmups after straining his right hip in Friday's loss at the New York Knicks.

Timberwolves 111, Bulls 96

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and 22 rebounds, Derrick Rose scored 22 points off the bench and Minnesota pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Chicago.

Jeff Teague added 18 points for Minnesota, which won for the fifth time in seven games since trading Jimmy Butler to Philadelphia. Both the Timberwolves and Bulls were playing the second game of a back-to-back and their third game in four nights in a listless, sloppy affair.

Zach LaVine scored 28 points and Jabari Parker had 27, keeping their streak of 20-point games intact. Both players have reached 20 points in the past three games, but Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Justin Holiday had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls.

Most NFL division races over

AP
New Orleans Saints tight end Dan Arnold makes a diving catch during an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018.

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Sorry, Yogi. Maybe it is over before it's over.

Just look at most of the NFL division races.

The NFC West will be over if Seattle loses at Carolina on Sunday. The AFC West looks done in favor of Kansas City.

Both South divisions are runaways for the Saints in the NFC, the Texans — yes, the formerly 0-3 Texans—in the AFC.

Pittsburgh appears to be more in a race for the top overall AFC seed than any challenge in the North. Chicago has a choke hold on the NFC North.

And did anyone think New England would be challenged in the AFC East? Combine the three other rosters in that sector and the resulting team might not challenge Tom Brady and the Patriots.

That leaves one division in serious doubt, and with some serious turmoil: the NFC East.

You'll never hear a coach or general manager or owner claim anything is in the bag until, well, it's in the bag, tied up and secured in a safe place. So don't ask Sean Payton or Sean McVay or Matt Nagy about playoff byes and home-field advantages.

"For us, there's so many different things we can get better at," McVay says, "and that's the exciting thing about it is with football, there's this never-ending goal of continuing to improve and focus on the little things. Whether that's situational football, whether that's taking care of it or taking it away defensively. So, there's a lot of things within the framework of every single situation.

"Then, it's going to be about continuing to improve and playing team football. If we do that, then we think good things are going to happen, but it's going to be a tough stretch. We've got some great games coming up. For us, when we get back, the No. 1 focus will be on the Detroit Lions and then we'll go from there."

But it's crystal clear what's going on, even before we reach December.

Barring major injuries—the kind of thing that is destroying the season for Philadelphia and Atlanta and Cincinnati—here's what is going on:

AFC

The most interesting race is for which teams will wind up with a week off in the postseason. Kansas City (9-2) has the inside position, followed by Pittsburgh (7-2-1), New England and Houston, both 7-3. Sure, the Chargers (7-3) could sneak through in the West, and the Colts or Titans in the South. Does anyone really believe that will happen?

Home field is a huge edge for the Patriots, of course. They almost never lose at Foxborough in January.

Oddly, the Chiefs rarely win in KC in the postseason. They have lost their last six and haven't been victorious at Arrowhead in the playoffs since 1993, when Joe Montana was their quarterback.

The Steelers aren't particularly dominant at Heinz Field in the playoffs, either, but Houston is 3-1 at home in January.

The Chargers have a nice cushion for a wild card and do have a Thursday nighter at KC remaining. No other team has a winning record in the conference.

Pittsburgh has the least enviable remaining schedule, with home games with the Chargers and Patriots, and a visit to New Orleans. New England's only other likely test is against up-and-down Minnesota at Gillette Stadium.

Kansas City has that home game with the Chargers and a trip to Seattle as its most challenging contests, while Houston has no one remaining that has a winning record and has won seven in a row.

Look for the Chiefs and Patriots to lock up byes, with the Chargers and — a wild stab — the Colts grabbing wild cards.

NFC

Chicago's victory on Thanksgiving Day with backup quarterback Chase Daniel said a lot about the Bears (8-3). They are as opportunistic as anyone, and their defense is the best of any contender. They do get the Rams (10-1) on Dec. 9, but at Soldier Field, and still have matchups with the Packers and Vikings — neither of whom is balanced enough to put together a closing streak.

With that defense, Chicago usually should be capable of winning anywhere, except that's not how NFL 2018 is built. Playing at the offensive machines from New Orleans (10-1) or Los Angeles would prove hugely difficult.

The Saints own a victory over the Rams, which could be decisive in the race for top seed and, eventually, a spot in the Super Bowl. Still, New Orleans has trips to Dallas and Carolina, home games with the Steelers and Panthers, perhaps the most-testing schedule remaining.

The Rams, meanwhile, face only one opponent currently with a winning mark (Chicago) the rest of the way.

Dallas (6-5) unquestionably has the inside track in the East, especially owning wins over Washington (6-5), which has lost QB Alex Smith, and struggling Philadelphia (4-7). That might be the only division race in doubt come late December. Don't count on it being undecided.

Of prime interest, though, will be the chase for the wild card. Plenty of big matchups remain, beginning Sunday with Seattle at Carolina, which also has those two games left against New Orleans.

Green Bay has an easier remaining schedule than Minnesota, and Seattle, like Carolina, has a tough road.

Look for the Rams and Saints to earn byes, with Carolina getting a wild card in the NFC. The other? Ask us around Christmas.

AFC

From Page 24

fly here," said Avelino.

"We can't give a timeline. But, what we can assure you is that AFC will definitely help as soon as possible. We will be leaving Saipan on Saturday and when I go back to KL (Kuala Lumpur) and him (Avelino) in Manila, we will work on our reports by either Tuesday or Wednesday and we will take it from there. We will be back sooner than later," Garamendi said.

Games at the main and secondary pitches at the NMITC were suspended when Yutu slammed Saipan and Tinian, and AFC, according to Avelino, understand the importance of getting the players back into the pitch.

"Having the pitch back will definitely uplift the spirits of the players, as we know their homes and families were also affected by the super typhoon. Rebuilding the damage structure is something that the players look forward to. We will do this at the soonest possible time," the former Philippine futsal national team player and coach said.

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry Tan expressed the association's appreciation for AFC's prompt action.

"NMIFA is very grateful to AFC as the moment they heard what happened to Saipan and our facility, they immediately discussed how they can help us. Then they sent a team here to carefully examine the extent of the damage. We will closely work with AFC in the coming days, weeks, and months to do the necessary repair," Tan said.

"Our players, especially the youth, are eagerly waiting to get back to the game and resume our competition and we really appreciate AFC for helping us bring the kids back into the pitch. AFC's assistance will definitely go a long way and help us recover," the NMIFA head said.

Els expects Tiger to be playing captain at Presidents Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Ernie Els expects Tiger Woods will be a U.S. playing captain when the two lead their teams at the Presidents Cup next December at Royal Melbourne.

"I think so, the way he's playing," Els said Sunday during a media conference during the final round of the World Cup at Metropolitan. "I'm not sure what kind of points system they use for their team, but I think there's a big chance. The way he's going, it looks like he's going to be in contention a lot this year."

At the media conference, International team captain Els announced that Geoff Ogilvy will be one of his captain's assistants at the Royal Melbourne tournament from Dec. 9-15, 2019.

Ogilvy announced in May that he would be moving his family from Scottsdale, Arizona back to Australia later this year and would likely have a reduced playing schedule. He owns a home on the 14th hole of the West Course at Royal Melbourne.

"Playing in the Presidents Cup is a highlight of my career," Ogilvy said. "It is a special week to share the team room and the unique atmosphere with the players of the International team."

Ogilvy was also an assistant to captain Nick Price for the 2017 Presidents Cup. He also played on three consecutive International teams from 2007-11.

Els, who said there could be as many as 10 or 11 countries represented by players on his team, said he would announce two more captain's assistants early next year.

"He's a natural fit to be one of the assistant captains," Els said of Ogily. "He was my first choice—being a local man from Melbourne, knowing the sandbelt very well. I couldn't have a better guy and I'm very excited for him to be one of my assistant captains."

Els said the International team will be able to take advantage of several changes announced since the last Presidents Cup two years, including four captain's picks in addition to the eight players who earn their way on to the team via a points system; the host team's choice at whether alternate-shot foursomes or best-ball fourballs are played first on each of the first two days, and the hosts ability to tweak the course to its advantage.

"We've got the automatic selection down to eight, we've got a home-course advantage and we can start with the format we want ... all in all, I feel we have a very different lead up already," Els said.

It will be the third time the sandbelt course in southeast Melbourne has hosted the tournament. Woods is scheduled to be in Melbourne in early December for a scouting mission at Royal Melbourne.

The International team had its only win in 12 events at Royal Melbourne in 1998, when Els picked up 3 ½ points for the Internationals. The 2003 tournament in South Africa was tied, but the U.S. has won every other Presidents Cup.

Later Sunday, Els was expected to unveil a new logo for the International team at a reception at Royal Melbourne.

Thompson's putback lifts Warriors past Kings

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

AFC to assist in NMITC repair

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, Asian Football Confederation development consultant Domeka Garamendi, AFC consultant for infrastructure Baltazar Avelino, and NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta pose for a photo at Mai Teppanyaki at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan after the two visitors had a site visit at the NMI Soccer Training Center last Friday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The artificial turf of the secondary pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center was ripped off after Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Asian Football Confederation sent a team to Saipan to assess the damage sustained by the NMI Soccer Training Center and assured Northern Mariana Islands Football Association that help is coming to repair the facility.

AFC development consultant Domeka Garamendi and AFC consultant for infrastructure Baltazar Avelino were here last weekend and had a site inspection at the NMITC, which suffered massive damage when the island was hit by Super Typhoon Yutu last month.

"The damage was extensive. There's a lot of things that need to be fixed—the floodlight, the fence, the secondary pitch, bleachers, and other important parts of the training center," said Garamendi, who visited the island for the second time, as he was here in September last year to assist NMIFA in its strategic plan for 2018 to 2023.

"We knew that the facility just opened this year and it's a great one, so it's really sad that it suffered extensive damage because of Yutu," Garamendi said.

Once NMIFA did its own assessment on the damage to the facility, the association wrote a letter to AFC to seek assistance and the request got an immediate response from the group.

"It (repair of the facility) is on the priority list of AFC. AFC knows the urgency of this project, so after our superiors received the request letter, they made an arrangement for us to

See AFC on Page 23

Carol returns to Eddie Herr tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee made her second appearance in the prestigious Eddie Herr International Junior Championship last weekend at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

Lee first competed in the tournament, where the likes of Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, Marcelos Rios, Jelena Jankovic, Kim Clijsters Kei Nishikori, Ana Ivanovic, and Anna Kournikova also saw action, in 2014 when the Commonwealth bet was just an upcoming player in the Pacific.

Dong Min Lee, Carol's father, recalled how they traveled for more than a day to play in Eddie Herr and got financial assistance from his mother to make it to the competition. Through the generosity of Carol's grandmother, who passed away last year, Dong Min said her daughter managed to experience and see world-class tennis. Four years later, the 16-year-old continued to have exposure in competitions around the world, as she is now getting assistance from the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund for her impressive showing in various tournaments in the last two seasons.

"I would like to thank those who gave these opportunities to Carol. Thank you to ITF Development, ITF Oceania Training Center, coach Roxanne, and all of our Saipan friends," the older Lee said.

In her second stint at Eddie Herr, Carol had to play in the qualifying draw of the girls U18 singles. She was pitted against American Giana Puelet, who went on to advance to the second round of the qualifier after a 6-1, 6-2 victory over the CNMI bet.

After the loss, Lee is hoping to still make it the main draw via wild card or lucky loser system. She will also attempt to play in the main draw of the doubles event of the Grade 1 tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, left, poses for a photo with Maria Sharapova during a break in her practice at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, last weekend.